

COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

THE TENACRE PLACE

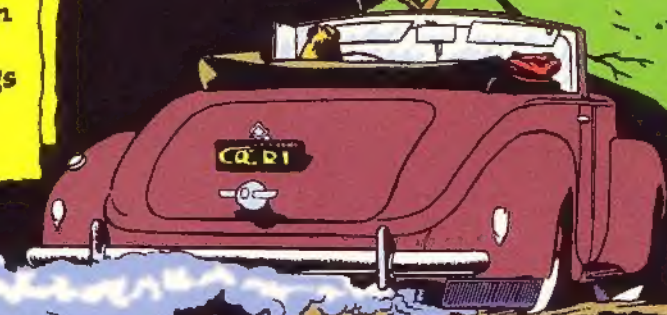
January 7 1945

ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

# THE SPIRIT

by  
Will Eisner

HORROR and sheer terror awaited those who ventured upon the old Tenacre place! ... That is, until Ellen Dolan decided to dabble in real estate! RIGHT THEN things began to happen-- and **FAST!**





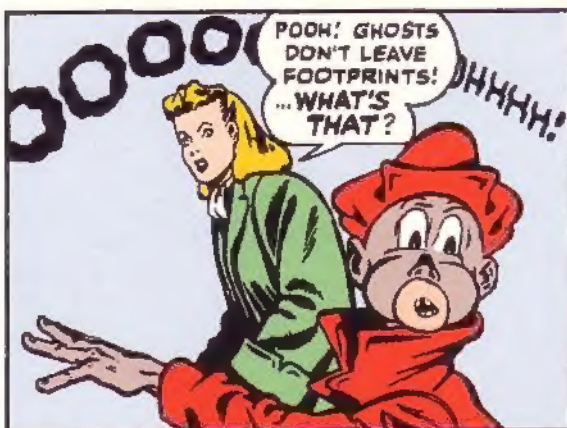
Outside Central City...

IT'S NICE OF THE SPIRIT TO LET YOU HELP ME! I RENTED THIS PLACE FOR A MERE SONG!

MISS ELLEN -- THIS PLACE SHO' LOOK LIKE A DIRGE TO ME!

NONSENSE, EBONY! WE'LL CAPITALIZE ON THE APPEARANCE AND CALL IT YE HAUNTED TEA SHOPPE! WH-- WHAT'S THIS? WE HAVE VISITORS!

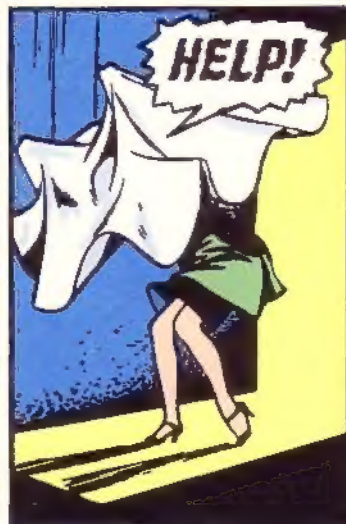
MEBBE IT'S GHOSTS!



A few minutes later--at a nearby general store...

YES, FATHER! ASK THE SPIRIT TO COME RIGHT OVER! ... WHAT?.. YOU THINK IT WAS PROBABLY THE FOOTPRINT OF A COW?

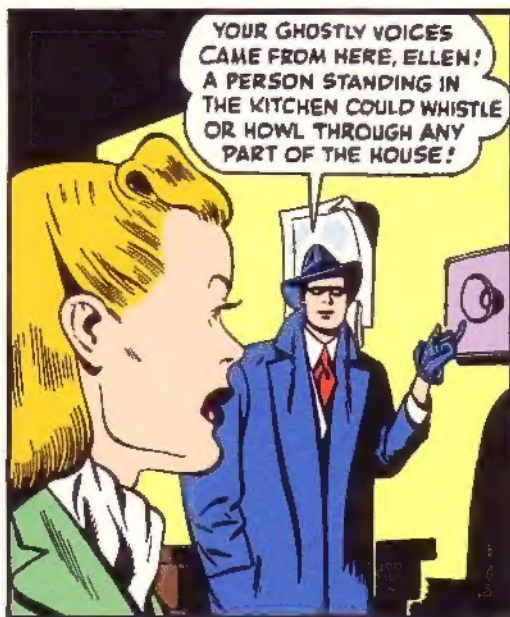
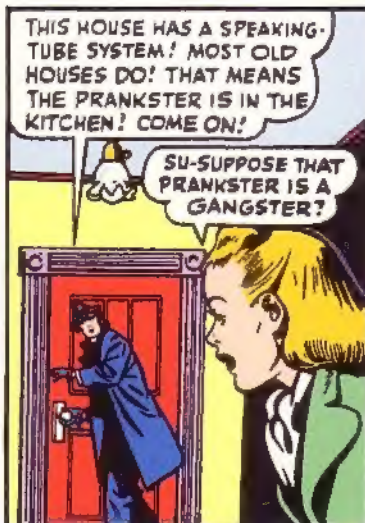
TELL 'IM THAT COW WEARS SIZE 'LEBEN SHOES!



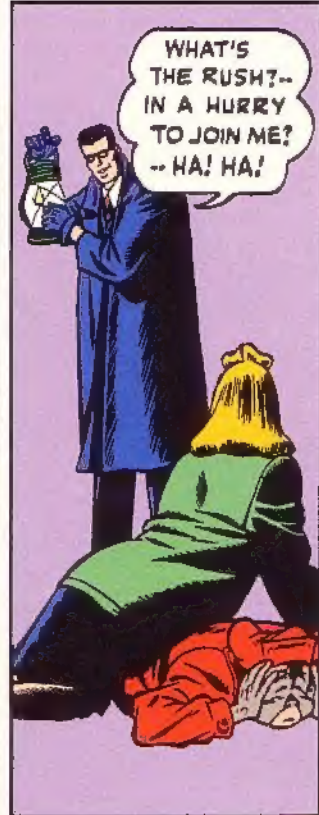




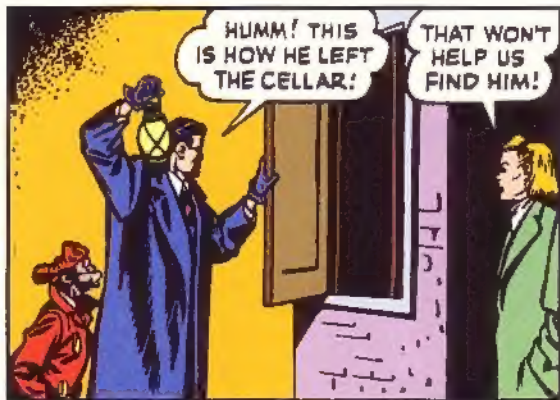




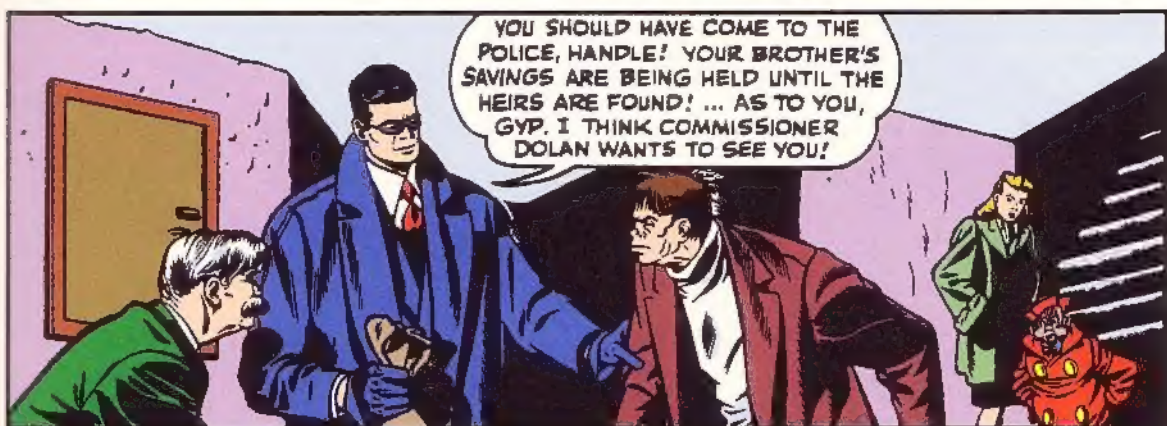














January 14 1945



# The SPIRIT

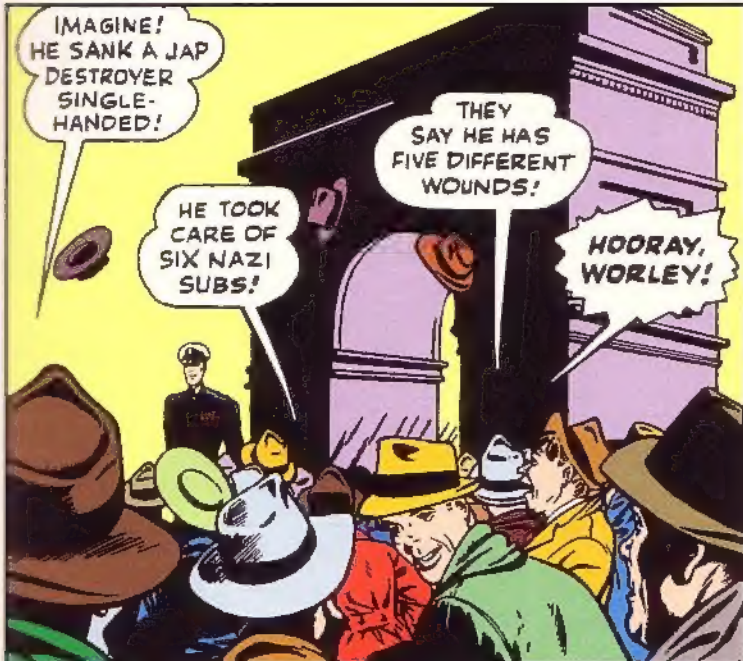
WHAT  
A  
PARADE!

IT CAN'T BE  
BIG ENOUGH  
FOR THE NAVY'S  
GREATEST  
HERO!

THERE'S  
LIEUTENANT  
WORLEY NOW!  
HIS MOTHER'S  
SITTING NEXT  
TO HIM!

WHAT  
A MAN!  
REPORTED  
DEAD TWICE--  
AND THERE  
HE IS AS  
GOOD AS  
NEW!





IMAGINE!  
HE SANK A JAP  
DESTROYER  
SINGLE-  
HANDED!

HE TOOK  
CARE OF  
SIX NAZI  
SUBS!

THEY  
SAY HE HAS  
FIVE DIFFERENT  
WOUNDS!

HOORAY,  
WORLEY!



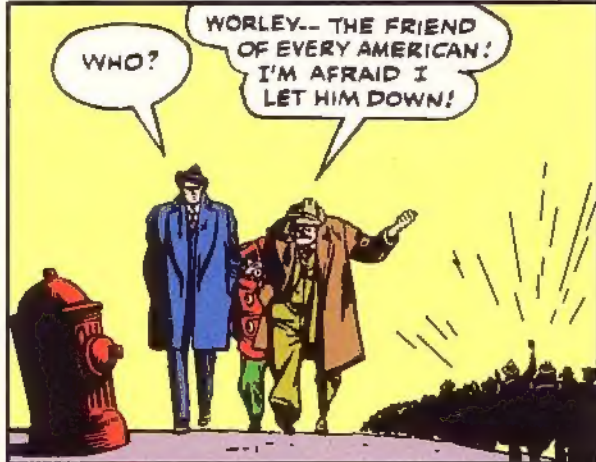
GUESS WE CAN  
GO NOW, EBONY!  
UH ... HELLO,  
DOLAN!

SPIRIT!...  
WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING  
HERE?



I HAD TO INDULGE IN A LITTLE  
HERO WORSHIP. I GUESS! I  
WAS JUST LEAVING! SAY, YOU  
LOOK AS THOUGH YOU'D LOST  
YOUR BEST FRIEND!

MAYBE  
I HAVE!



WHO?

WORLEY-- THE FRIEND  
OF EVERY AMERICAN!  
I'M AFRAID I  
LET HIM DOWN!



YOU'VE BUILT UP  
ENOUGH SUSPENSE!  
LET'S HAVE IT!

HIS LITTLE GIRL'S JUST  
BEEN KIDNAPPED! I SHOULD  
HAVE THOUGHT OF THE POSSI-  
BILITY! KIDNAPPERS WOULD  
FIGURE EVERYBODY IN THE  
COUNTRY WOULD CHIP IN TO  
RAISE A RANSOM!

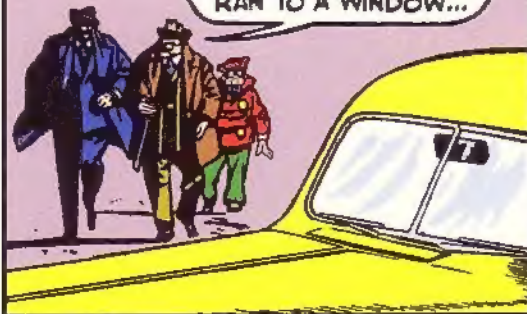


BUT IT NEVER OCCURRED TO  
ME! I CONCENTRATED ON  
GETTING MOST OF THE  
FORCE DOWN TO THE PARADE  
TODAY! THE KID'S BEEN  
GONE FOR AN HOUR!

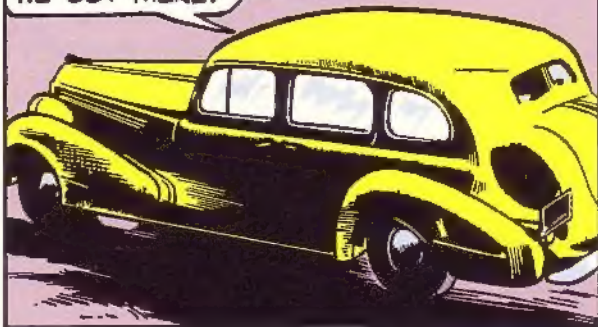


HOW MUCH  
DO YOU KNOW  
SO FAR?

WORLEY'S MOTHER, WHO WAS  
TAKING CARE OF THE CHILD,  
LEFT HER WITH A NURSE-  
MAID WHEN SHE CAME  
DOWN FOR THE PARADE!  
A NEIGHBOR SAID SHE  
HEARD A SCREAM AND  
RAN TO A WINDOW...

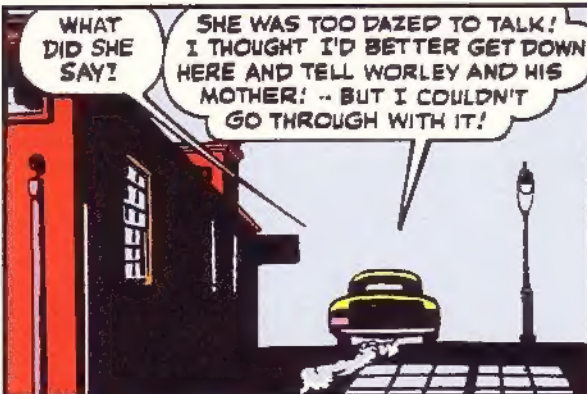


SHE CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF A CAR  
ROLLING AWAY! SHE WENT NEXT  
DOOR AND FOUND THE NURSE-  
MAID UNCONSCIOUS! SHE  
CALLED US! THE GIRL WAS  
JUST COMING TO WHEN  
WE GOT THERE!



WHAT  
DID SHE  
SAY?

SHE WAS TOO DAZED TO TALK!  
I THOUGHT I'D BETTER GET DOWN  
HERE AND TELL WORLEY AND HIS  
MOTHER! -- BUT I COULDN'T  
GO THROUGH WITH IT!



WHEN I SAW YOU I THOUGHT  
MAYBE ... WELL, THIS TIME I  
NEED YOUR HELP, SPIRIT!  
MAYBE WE CAN FIND THE  
KID BEFORE WE HAVE TO  
TELL WORLEY!

WE CAN  
TRY!



I LEFT A  
MAN WITH THE  
NURSEMAID!



I GUESS  
THAT'S THE  
MAN!

McBRIDE!  
SOMEBODY  
SLUGGED  
HIM!

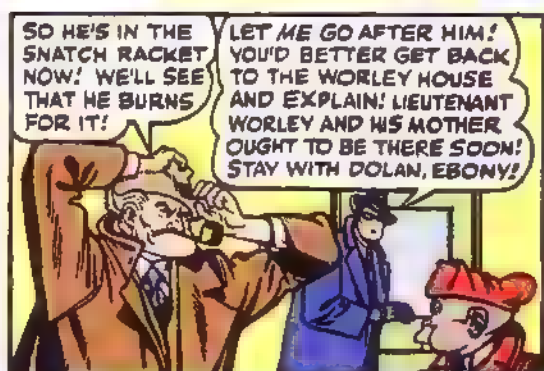
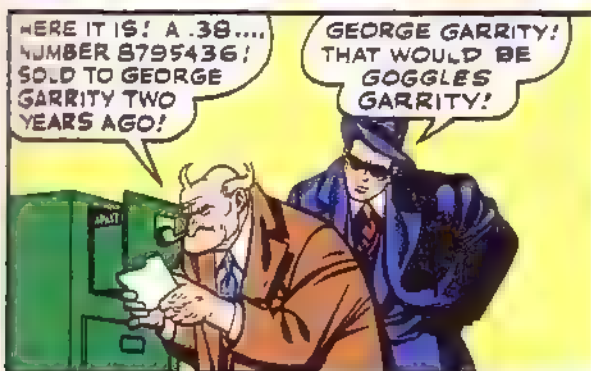


McBRIDE!...  
WHAT HAPPENED?  
WHERE'S THAT  
GIRL?

S-SOMEBODY  
MUST'VE  
SLUGGED ME,  
COMMISSIONER!  
I DON'T  
REMEMBER  
A THING!











GOGGLES WOULDN'T LIKE IT IF I TALKED TO THE SPIRIT ABOUT HIM!

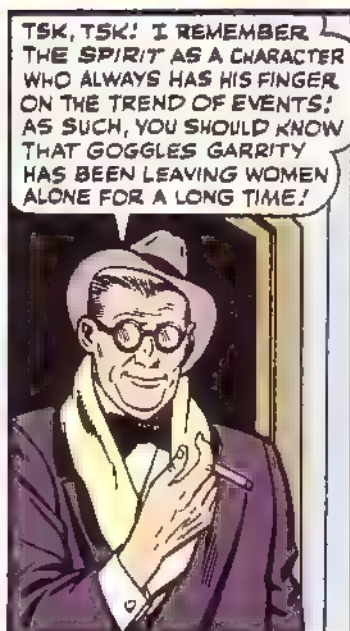


AND I WOULDN'T LIKE IT IF YOU PULLED THAT ROD ON ME!



WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE TROUBLE?

GREETINGS, GOGGLES! WHERE'S THE LITTLE WORLEY GIRL?

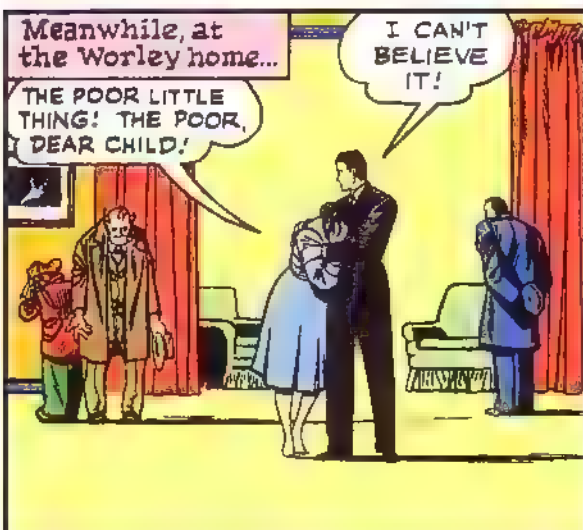


TSK, TSK! I REMEMBER THE SPIRIT AS A CHARACTER WHO ALWAYS HAS HIS FINGER ON THE TREND OF EVENTS! AS SUCH, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT GOGGLES GARRITY HAS BEEN LEAVING WOMEN ALONE FOR A LONG TIME!



YOUR GUN WAS FOUND AT THE SCENE OF THE KIDNAPPING! EXPLAIN THAT!

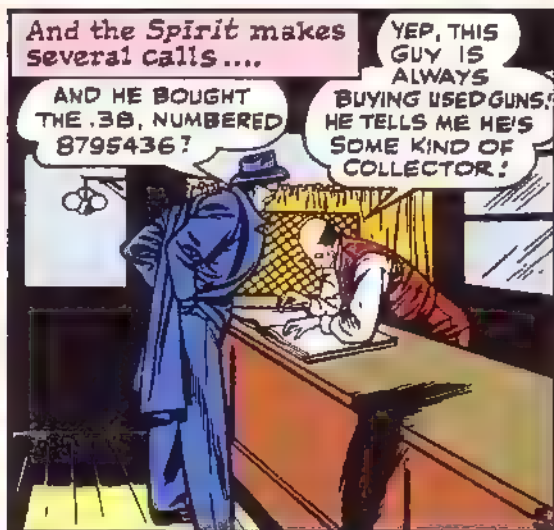
AH! NOISY ALICE! I REMEMBER HER WELL! SHE HAS QUITE A HISTORY! I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE THEY TOOK ME AT THE RACES LAST SPRING AND I HAD TO PUT HER IN HOCK!



Meanwhile, at the Worley home...

THE POOR LITTLE THING! THE POOR, DEAR CHILD!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!



And the Spirit makes several calls ....

AND HE BOUGHT THE .38, NUMBERED 8795436?

YEP, THIS GUY IS ALWAYS BUYING USED GUNS! HE TELLS ME HE'S SOME KIND OF COLLECTOR!



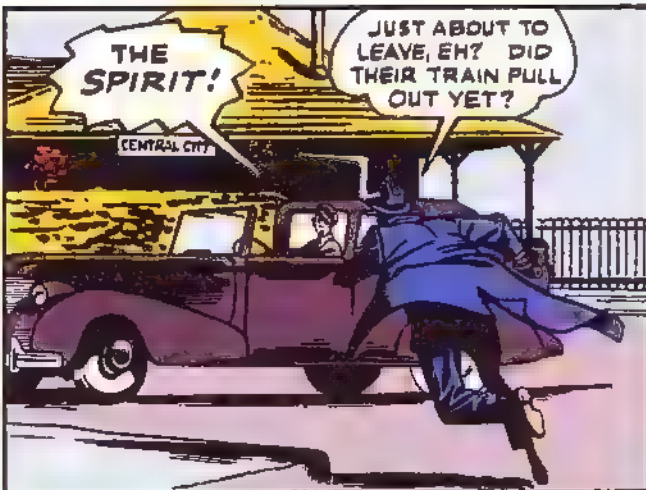
I'VE GOT IT LISTED RIGHT HERE IN MY BOOK!

THANKS! THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO KNOW!



THE SPIRIT!

JUST ABOUT TO LEAVE, EH? DID THEIR TRAIN PULL OUT YET?



LAY OFF, SPIRIT! THE TRAIN DIDN'T PULL OUT! I WON'T TRY TO HIDE ANYTHING FROM YOU!

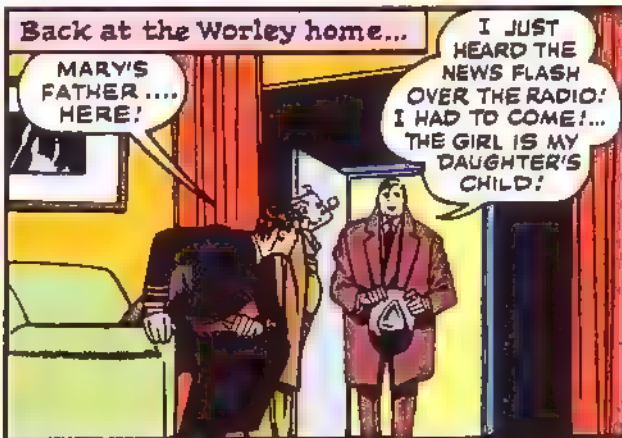
A VERY SENSIBLE IDEA! LET'S GO!



Back at the Worley home...

MARY'S FATHER... HERE!

I JUST HEARD THE NEWS FLASH OVER THE RADIO! I HAD TO COME!... THE GIRL IS MY DAUGHTER'S CHILD!



BUT...!

I KNOW I'VE MADE MISTAKES IN THE PAST! I DISOWNED MY DAUGHTER WHEN SHE MARRIED YOU... BUT LOSING MY GRANDCHILD THIS WAY... A POOR, MOTHERLESS BABY... IT MADE ME SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY!



IT CERTAINLY MUST HAVE, MR. DANA!

HIST' SPIRIT BOSS, YO' SHO' WAS QUICK!



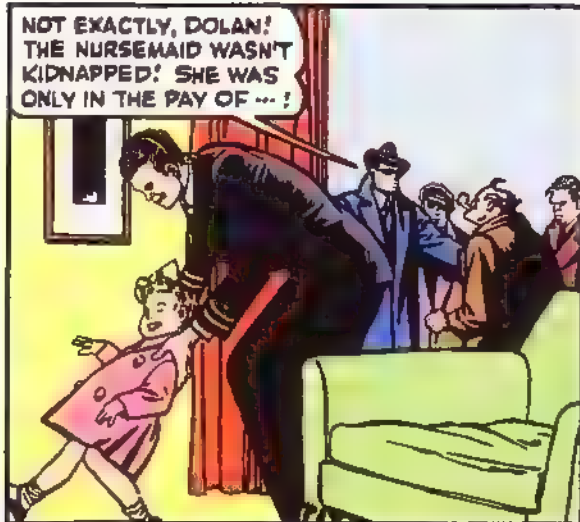
DARLING!

SPIRIT, YOU'VE PULLED HIM IN! SO HE'S THE BIRD WHO KIDNAPPED THE CHILD AND THE NURSEMAID?





NOT EXACTLY, DOLAN!  
THE NURSEMAID WASN'T  
KIDNAPPED! SHE WAS  
ONLY IN THE PAY OF ...!



NOT SO FAST, MR. DANA!  
YOU MIGHT NOT LIKE THE  
TASTE OF THAT  
POISON!

HIM? BUT  
HE'S THE KID'S  
GRANDFATHER!



RIGHT? HE HAD HIS CHAUFFEUR  
KEEP BUYING OLD GUNS UNTIL  
HE FOUND ONE THAT HAD  
BELONGED TO A GANGSTER  
WITH A RECORD! THAT WAS  
TO THROW US ON THE  
WRONG SCENT!

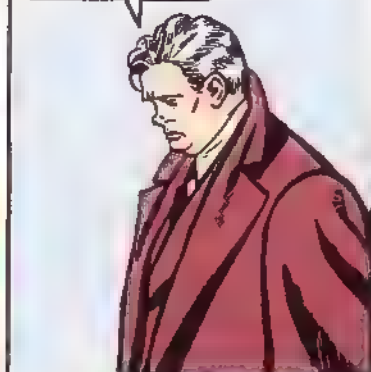


THE NURSEMAID WAS PLANTED  
IN THIS JOB! SHE FEIGNED  
UNCONSCIOUSNESS AND WHEN  
I CAUGHT HER SHE WAS ABOUT  
TO TAKE THE CHILD OFF TO  
DANA'S ESTATE!

BUT WHY...  
WHY WOULD A  
MAN DO SUCH A  
THING TO HIS OWN  
GRANDDAUGHTER?



I'VE HATED WORLEY BITTERLY  
SINCE HE TOOK MY DAUGHTER  
FROM ME! I NEVER CONSENTED  
TO THEIR MARRIAGE--AND  
SOMEHOW I'VE ALWAYS HELD  
HIM RESPONSIBLE FOR HER  
DEATH! I TOOK THE CHILD  
BECAUSE SHE WAS SO MUCH  
LIKE MY MARY!



I'M SURE YOU'LL BE  
LENIENT, DOLAN! SO  
LONG, LIEUTENANT  
WORLEY--AND  
GOOD LUCK!

I'LL NEVER  
FORGET YOU,  
SPIRIT!



WE ALWAYS SOLVE  
OUR CASE, WORLEY!...  
JUST ANOTHER EXAMPLE  
OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE  
CENTRAL CITY POLICE!





COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

THE LORNING MURDER

January 21 1945

ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

# SPRIT



YOU'VE HAD  
A BAD NIGHT,  
LORNING! THESE  
IOU'S TOTAL MORE  
THAN FIVE  
THOUSAND!

I--I  
CAN'T PAY  
YOU RIGHT  
AWAY!

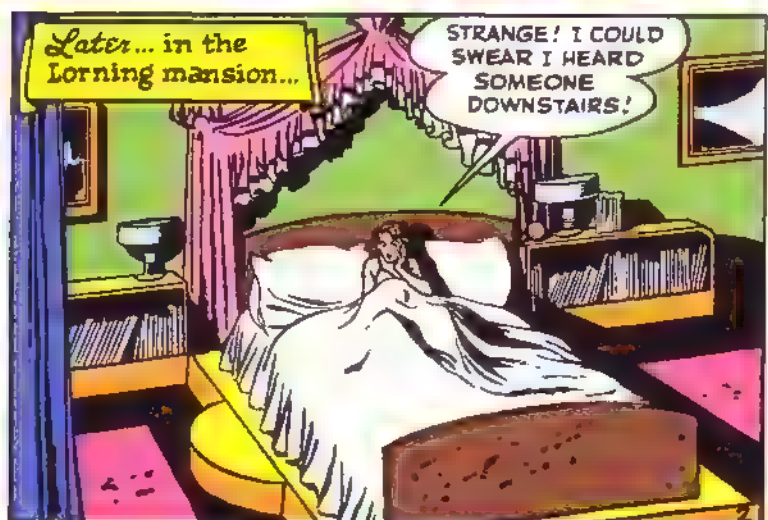
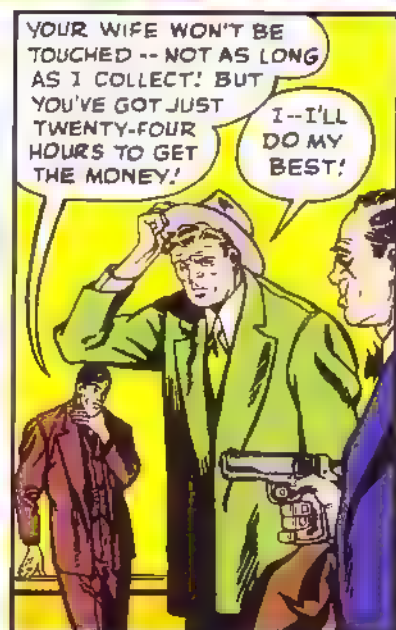
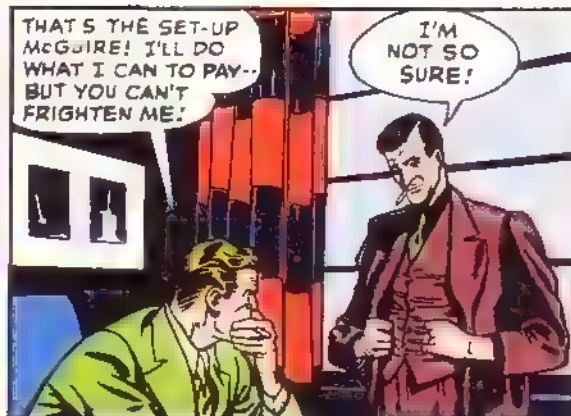


I MUST  
HAVE BEEN CRAZY!  
I HAVEN'T GOT THAT  
KIND OF MONEY! I  
DON'T KNOW WHERE  
TO GET IT!

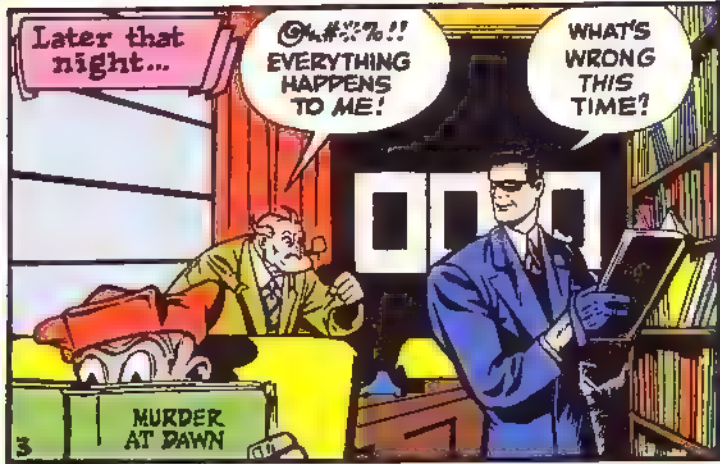
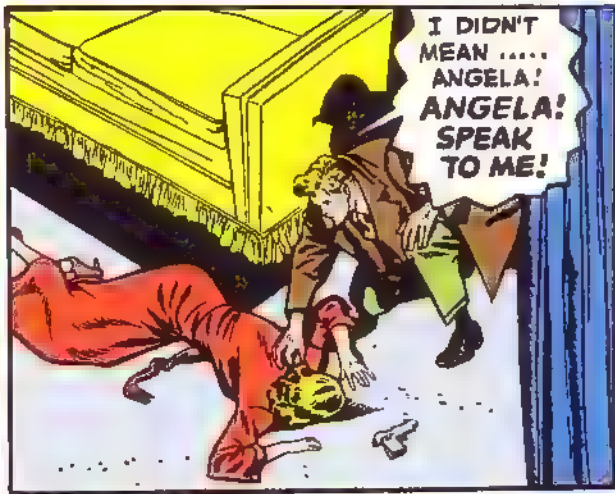
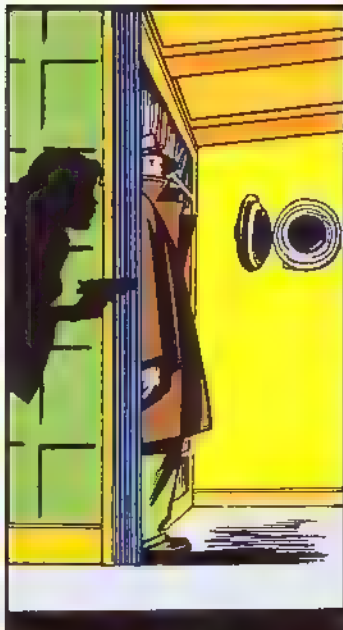
I CAN  
MAKE SOME  
SUGGESTIONS!



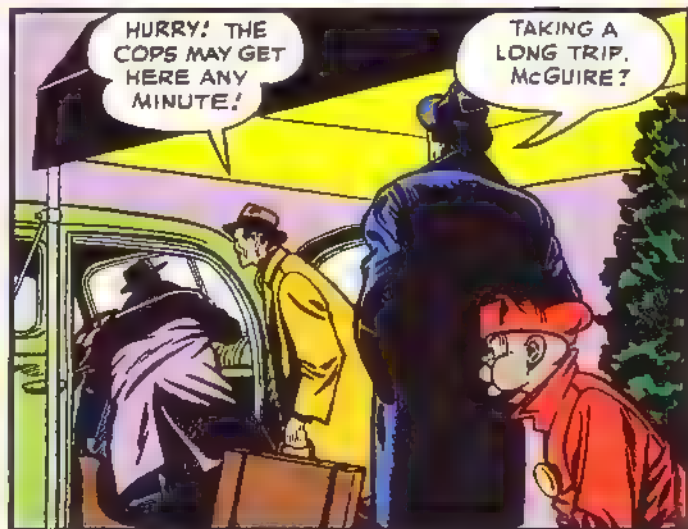
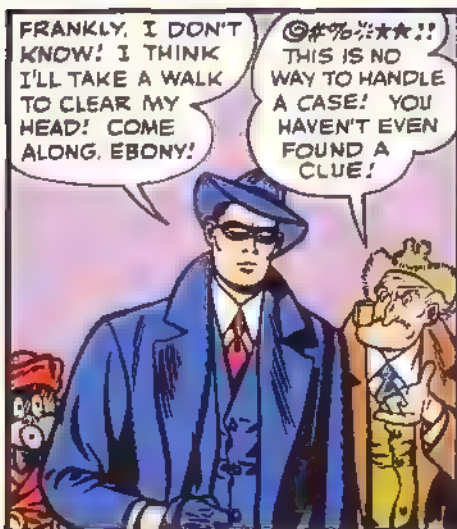
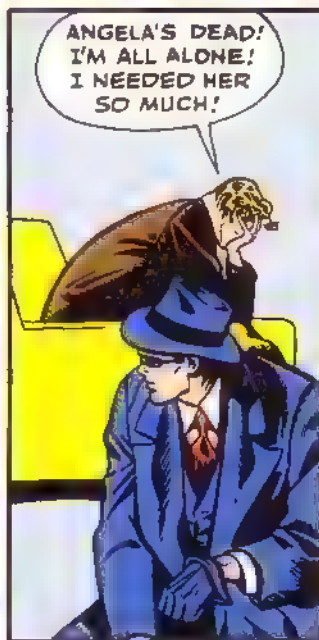
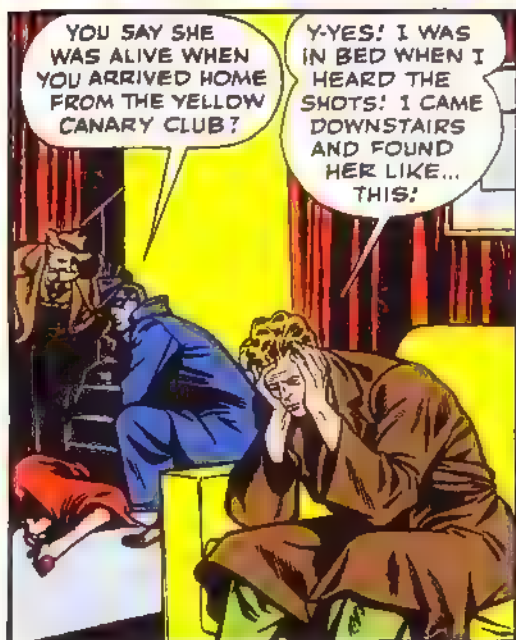
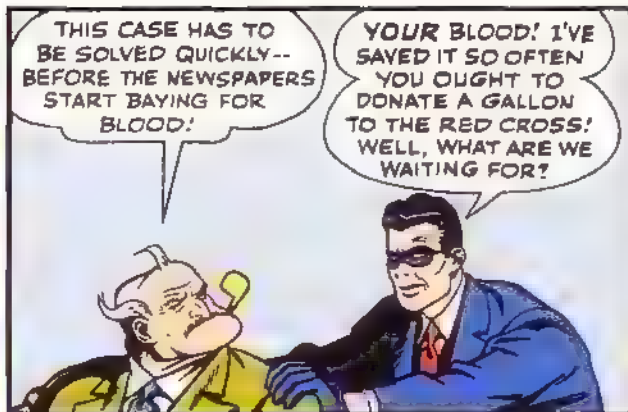






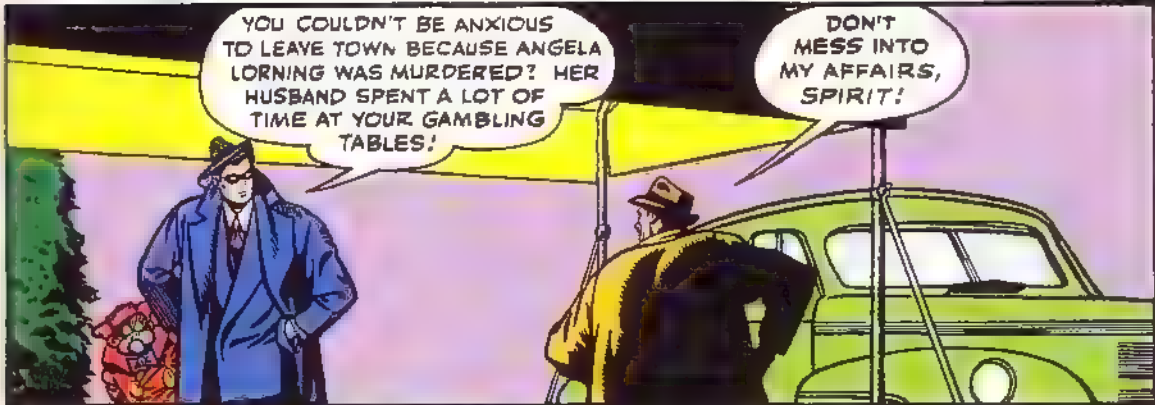






YOU COULDN'T BE ANXIOUS  
TO LEAVE TOWN BECAUSE ANGELA  
LORNING WAS MURDERED? HER  
HUSBAND SPENT A LOT OF  
TIME AT YOUR GAMBLING  
TABLES!

DON'T  
MESS INTO  
MY AFFAIRS,  
SPIRIT!



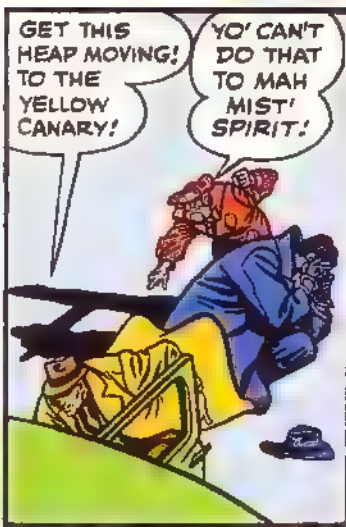
YOU  
MIGHT  
GET  
HURT!

UGH!



GET THIS  
HEAP MOVING!  
TO THE  
YELLOW  
CANARY!

YO' CAN'T  
DO THAT  
TO MAH  
MIST'  
SPIRIT!



NOT  
SO FAST,  
McGUIRE!

MIST' SPIRIT  
BOSS, WAIT  
FO' ME!

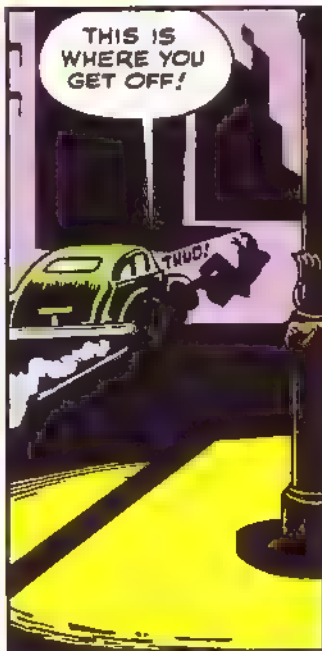


YOU'RE  
TAKING ON A  
PASSENGER!

YOU WON'T  
RIDE FAR,  
SPIRIT!



THIS IS  
WHERE YOU  
GET OFF!



MIST' SPIRIT  
BOSS! ... IS  
YO' ALL  
RIGHT?





And at the Yellow Canary...

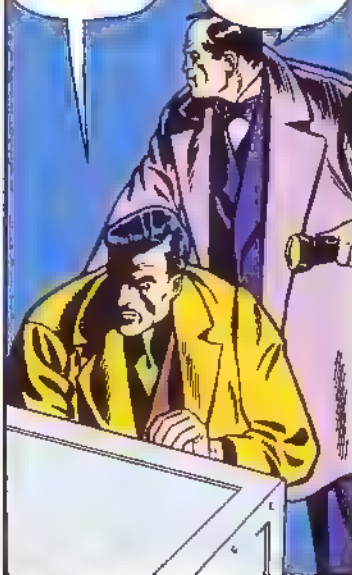
WE'LL CLEAN  
OUT ALL THE  
SPARE DOUGH  
IN THE SAFE!

YEAH! WE MAY  
BE GONE A  
LONG  
TIME!



I HEAR  
SOMEBODY  
MOVING!

WHO'S  
THERE?



THUD!



LORNING! YOU FOOL,  
WHAT ARE YOU DOING  
WITH THAT GUN...?

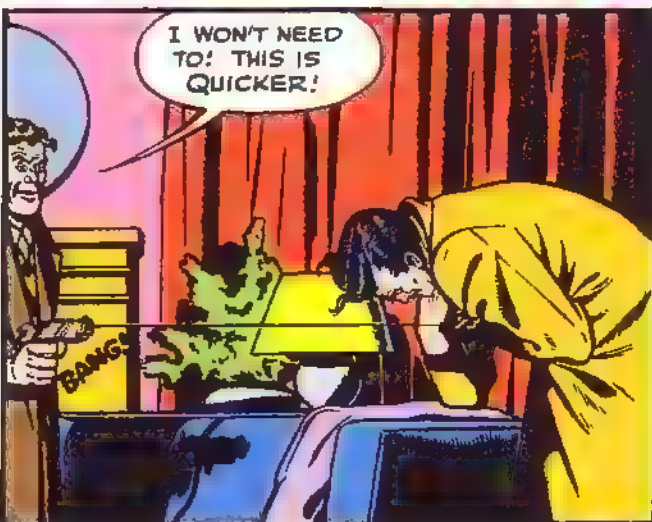


ANGELA'S DEAD!  
YOU'LL PAY  
FOR THAT!

YOU'RE NOT  
HANGING A  
MURDER RAP  
ON ME!



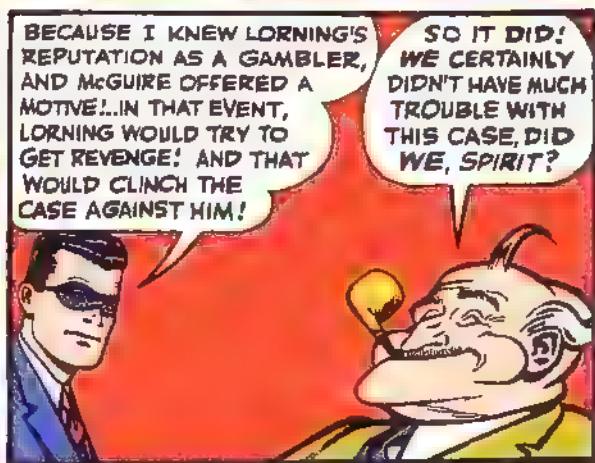
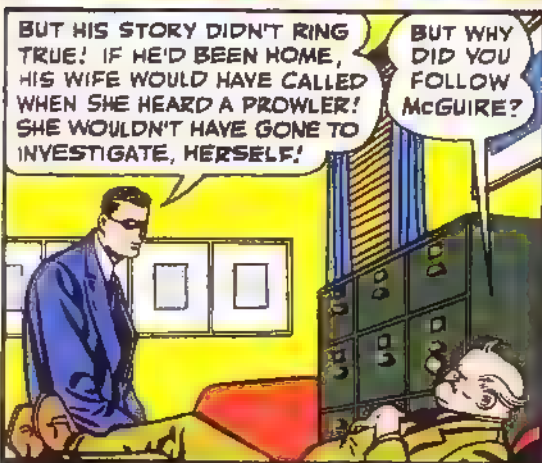
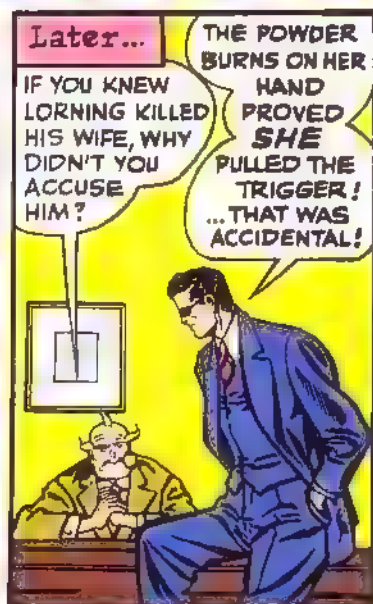
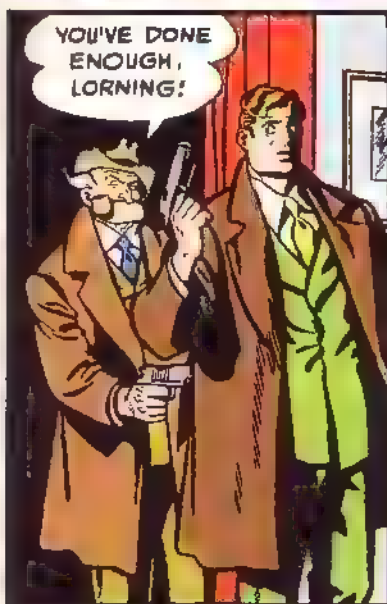
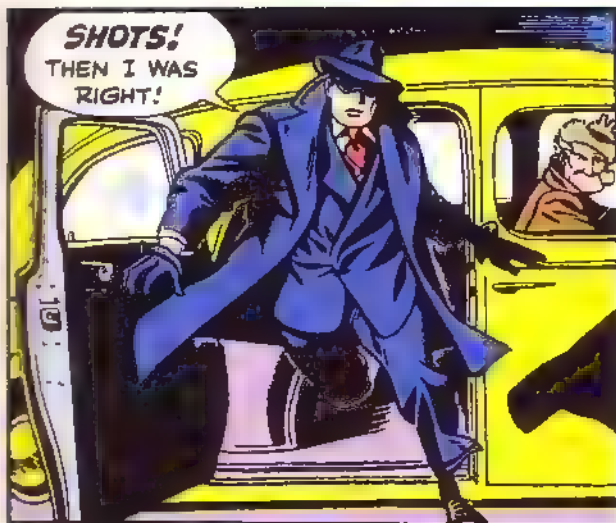
I WON'T NEED  
TO! THIS IS  
QUICKER!



CAN YOU STILL  
FEEL IT,  
McGUIRE?  
CAN YOU?

BANG!  
BANG!







**COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION**

THE SACRED CAT OF HURDSTAN

January 28 1945

**ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE**

The

# SPIRIT

In which Ebony is involved  
in a maharajah's harem...

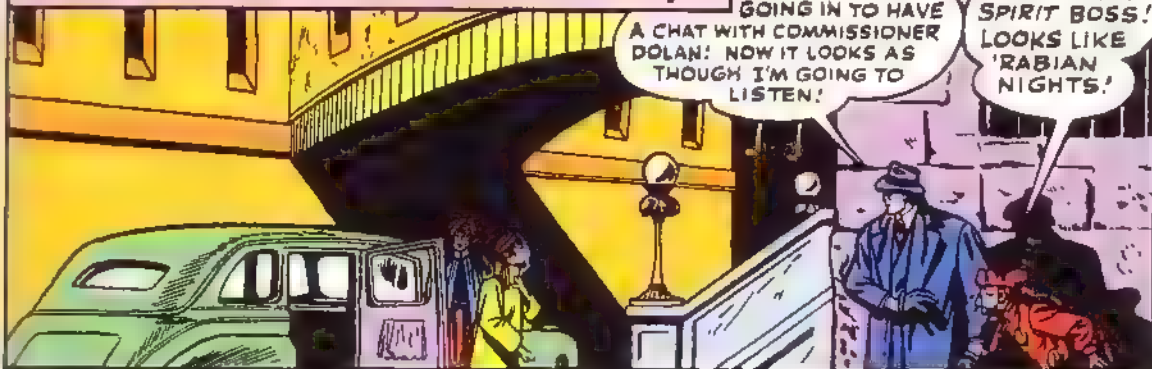
Need one say more?



In front of Police Headquarters, Central City...

HMMM! I WAS GOING IN TO HAVE A CHAT WITH COMMISSIONER DOLAN! NOW IT LOOKS AS THOUGH I'M GOING TO LISTEN!

WOW! MIST' SPIRIT BOSS! LOOKS LIKE 'RABIAN NIGHTS'!

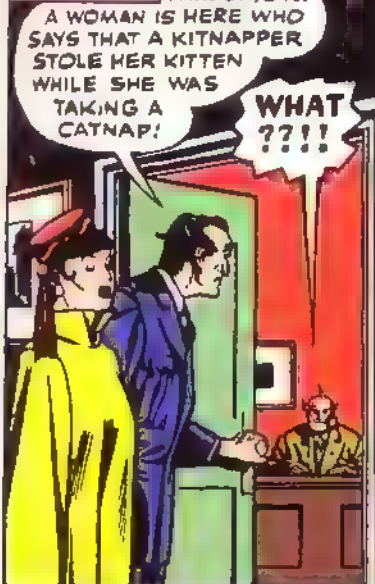


Inside Headquarters in Commissioner Dolan's Office...

PARDON, SIR!

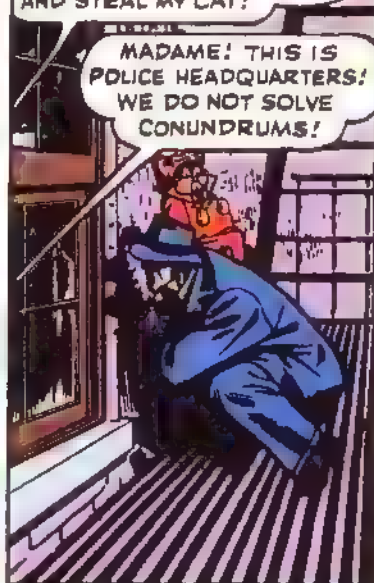
A WOMAN IS HERE WHO SAYS THAT A KITNAPPER STOLE HER KITTEN WHILE SHE WAS TAKING A CATNAP!

WHAT ???!



EET EES AS HE SAY. SAHIB! I TAKE ZEE CATNAP AND ZEE KITNAPPER HE COOME AND STEAL MY CAT!

MADAME! THIS IS POLICE HEADQUARTERS! WE DO NOT SOLVE CONUNDRUMS!



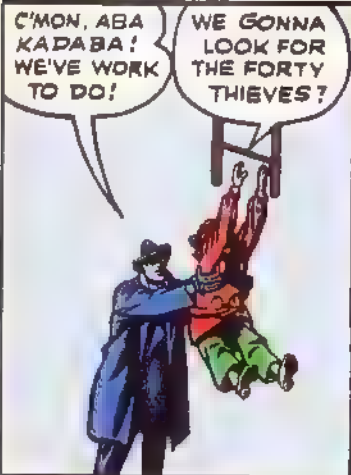
BUT YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAN'! ZEES EES ZE SACRED JADE CAT OF HURDSTAN!

HOLY COW! I MEAN CAT! WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?



C'MON, ABA KADABA! WE'VE WORK TO DO!

WE GONNA LOOK FOR THE FORTY THIEVES?



IT'S THIEVES, ALL RIGHT! I DON'T KNOW ABOUT FORTY! THIS IS THE PLACE WE WANT!

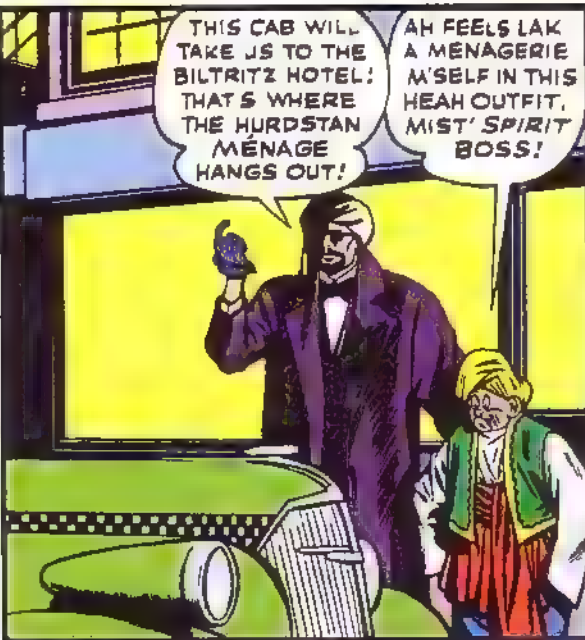
THEATRICAL COSTUMER.



WE'D LIKE TO HAVE A COUPLE OF ARABIAN COSTUMES!

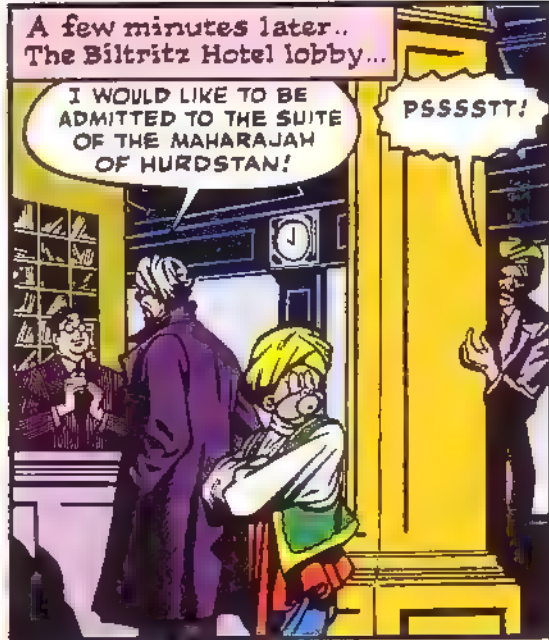






THIS CAB WILL  
TAKE US TO THE  
BILTRITZ HOTEL!  
THAT'S WHERE  
THE HURDSTAN  
MENAGE  
HANGS OUT!

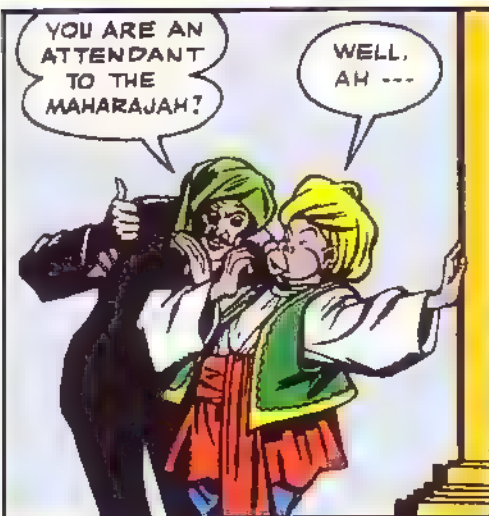
AH FEELS LAK  
A MENAGERIE  
M'SELF IN THIS  
HEAH OUTFIT,  
MIST' SPIRIT  
BOSS!



A few minutes later..  
The Biltritz Hotel lobby...

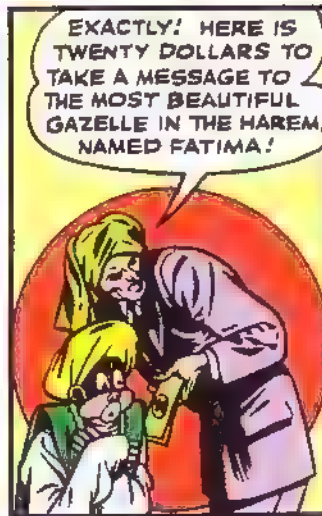
I WOULD LIKE TO BE  
ADMITTED TO THE SUITE  
OF THE MAHARAJAH  
OF HURDSTAN!

PSSSTT!



YOU ARE AN  
ATTENDANT  
TO THE  
MAHARAJAH?

WELL,  
AH ---

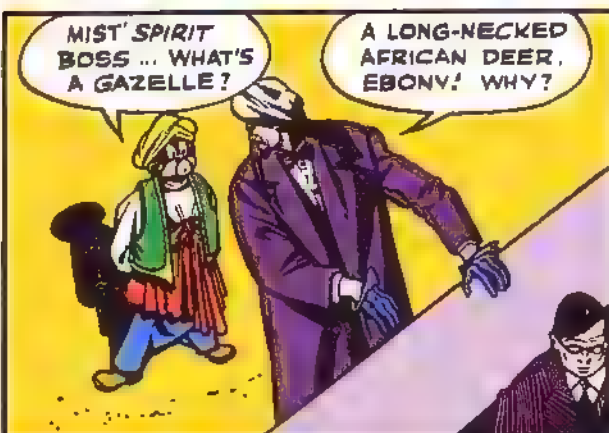


EXACTLY! HERE IS  
TWENTY DOLLARS TO  
TAKE A MESSAGE TO  
THE MOST BEAUTIFUL  
GAZELLE IN THE HAREM,  
NAMED FATIMA!



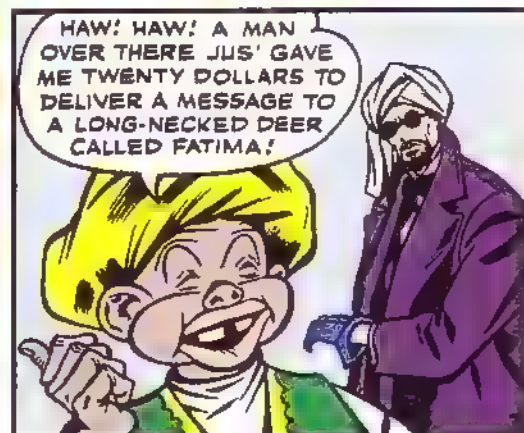
TELL THIS GAZELLE  
THAT YUSSOUF AWAITS  
BELOW TO FLEE WITH  
HER TO PARADISE!

YASSUH! BUT  
AH SHO'DON' KNOW  
WHAT YO' TALKIN'  
'BOUT!

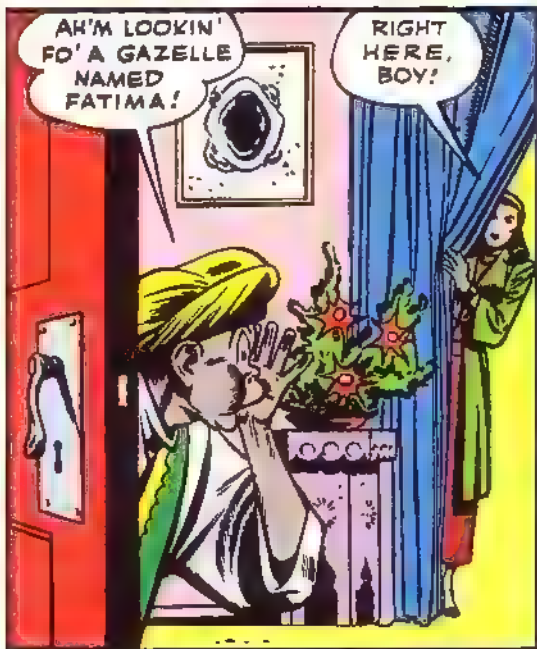
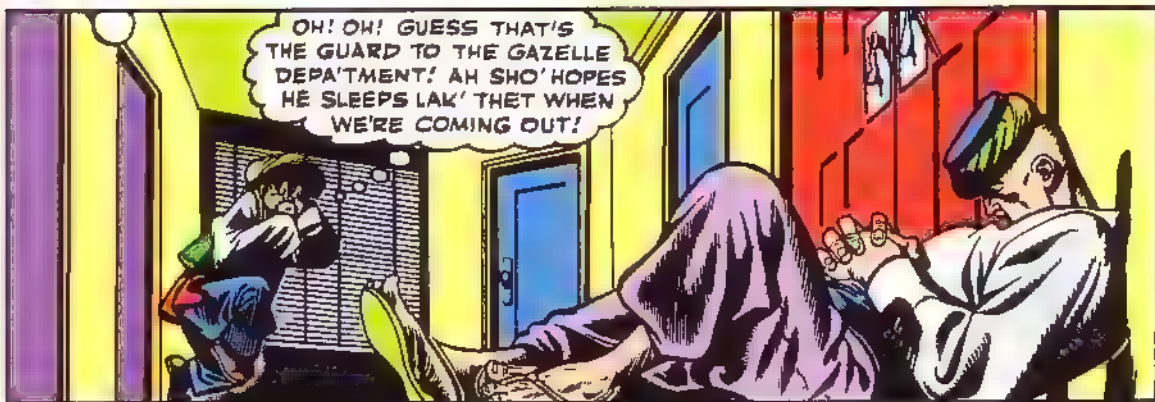
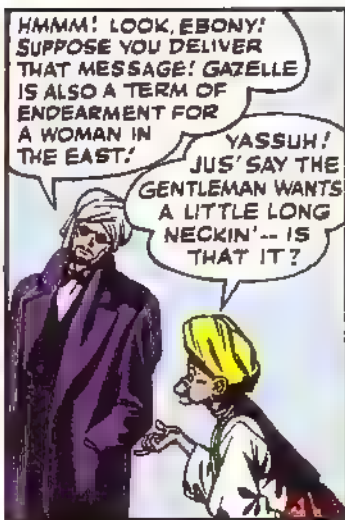
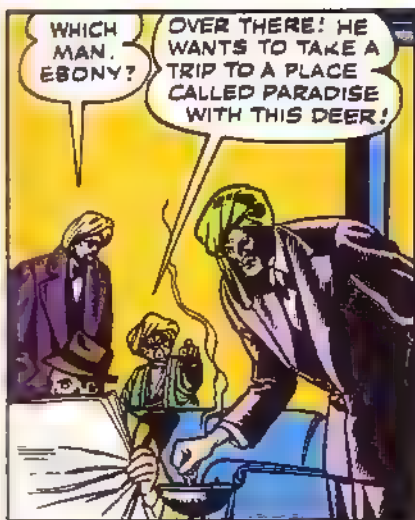


MIST' SPIRIT  
BOSS ... WHAT'S  
A GAZELLE?

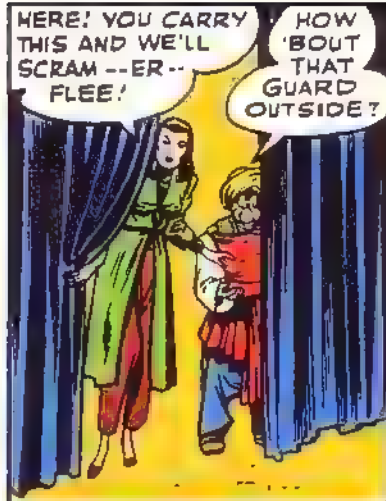
A LONG-NECKED  
AFRICAN DEER,  
EBONY! WHY?



HAW! HAW! A MAN  
OVER THERE JUS' GAVE  
ME TWENTY DOLLARS TO  
DELIVER A MESSAGE TO  
A LONG-NECKED DEER  
CALLED FATIMA!





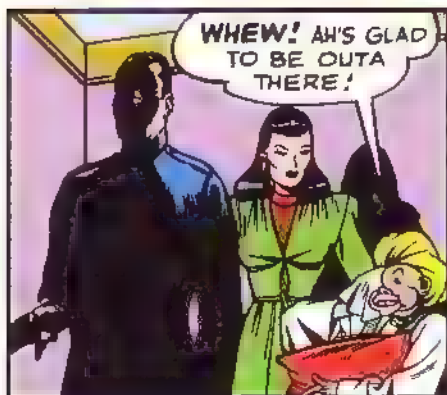


HERE! YOU CARRY THIS AND WE'LL SCRAM --ER-- FLEE!

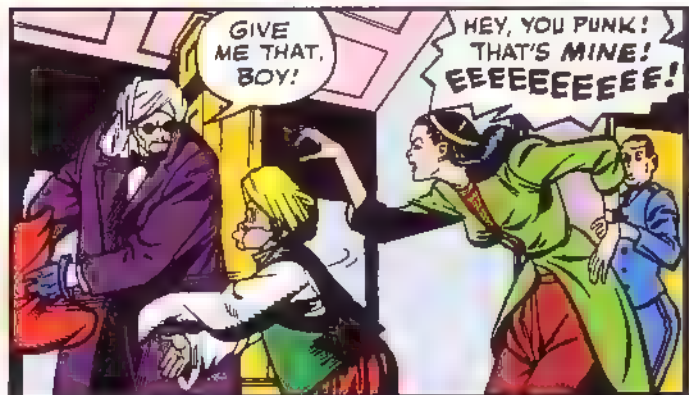
HOW 'BOUT THAT GUARD OUTSIDE?



DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM! I GAVE HIM A POWDER -- I MEAN -- SLEEPING POTION A SHORT TIME AGO!



WHEW! AH'S GLAD TO BE OUTA THERE!



GIVE ME THAT, BOY!

HEY, YOU PUNK! THAT'S MINE! EEEEEEEEEEE!



DEATH TO THE INFIDEL!

KILL THE THIEF!

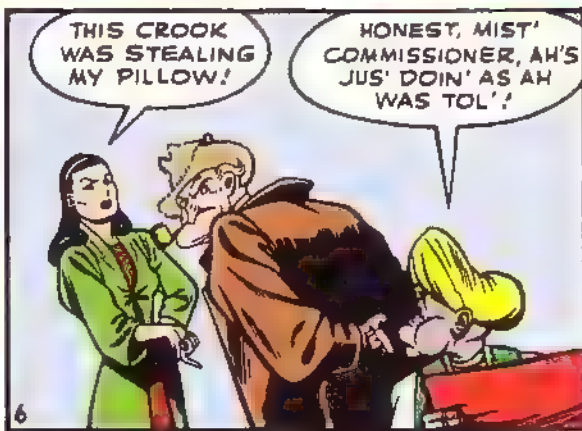
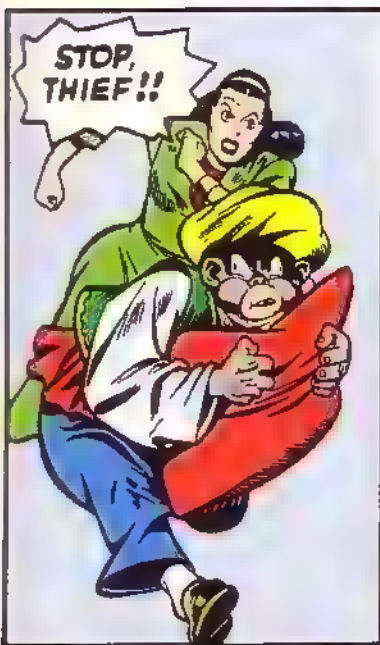
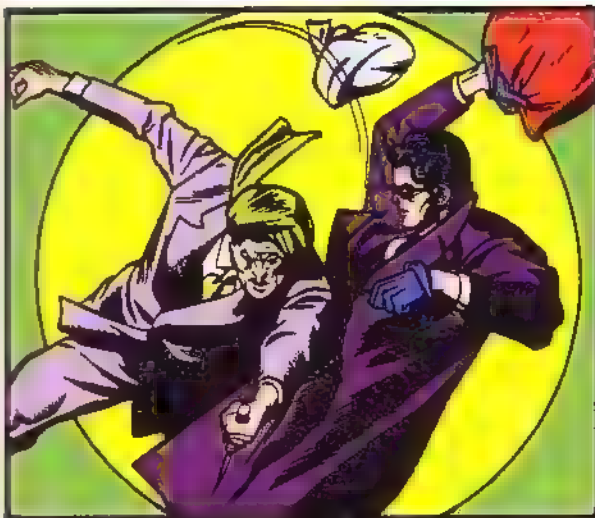
GET READY FOR THE FORWARD PASS, EBONY!

YASSUH, MIST' SPIRIT BOSS!

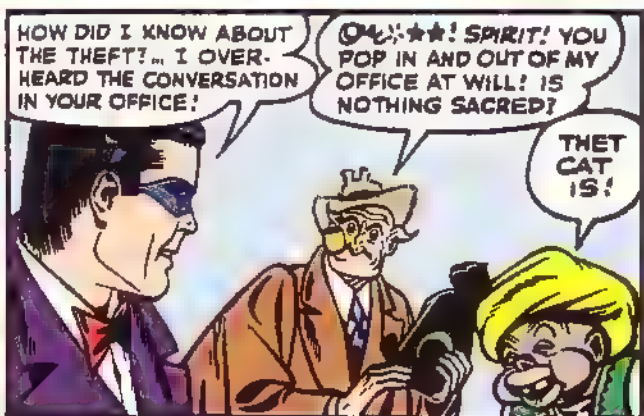
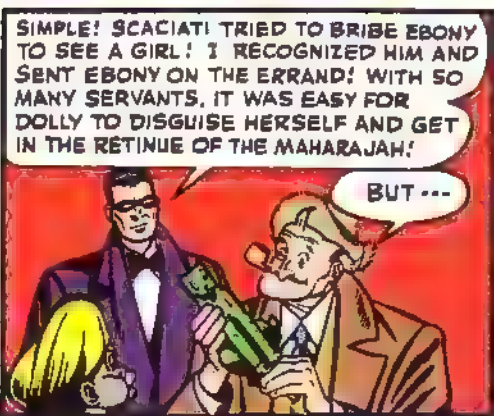


IF THIS IS TOO HARD, I'LL USE A CREAM PUFF NEXT TIME!

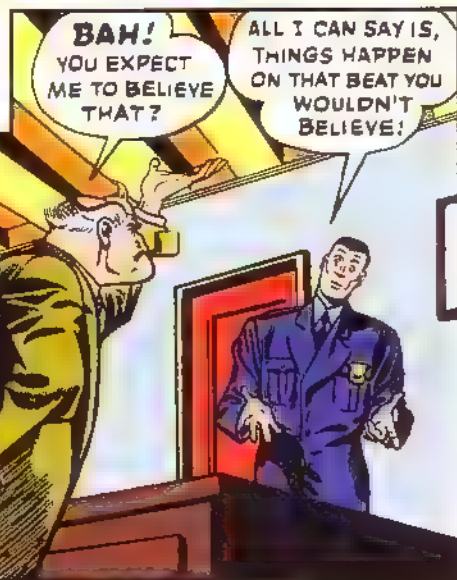
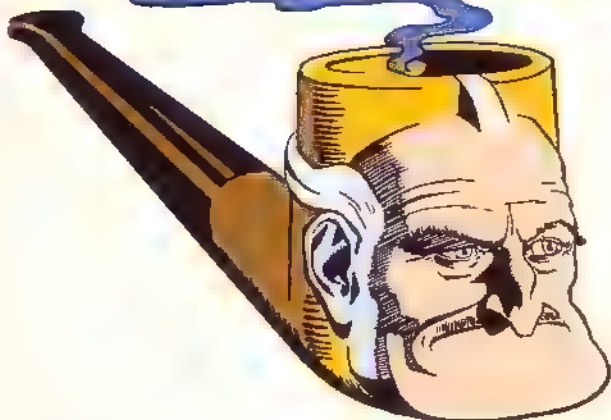
POK!



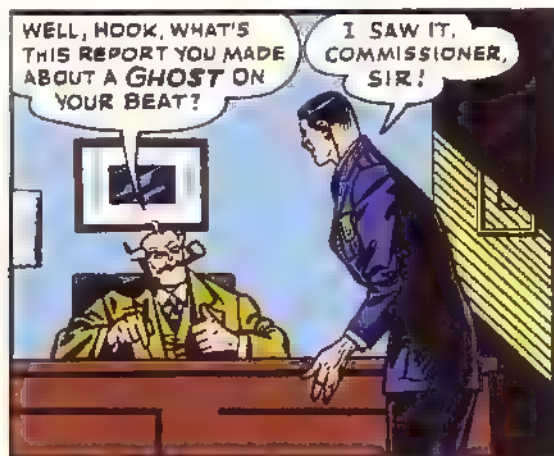




# THE SPIRIT



It takes a good policeman to walk a beat -- as Commissioner Dolan can well testify....





YOU SOUND AS IF YOU THINK IT'S **SIMPLER** TO BE THE **COMMISSIONER**!



WELL, SIR, SITTING AT A DESK AND ALL...

THAT SETTLES IT! I'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO **FIND OUT**!... **CAPTAIN!**



YES, SIR!

PATROLMAN HOOK WILL SIT IN AS **COMMISSIONER** FOR ONE NIGHT! I'M GOING TO WALK HIS BEAT-  
**PERSONALLY!**



WHAT WON'T THE OLD MAN THINK OF NEXT?

BUT--  
BUT...



NO BUTS, HOOK! SIT HERE AND **SEE** IF MY JOB'S SO EASY! I'M GOING TO WALK YOUR BEAT AS IT **SHOULD** BE WALKED!

NOW, WHY DID I DO **THAT?** ... I HAVEN'T WALKED A BEAT IN **THIRTY YEARS!** ... MAYBE ... WELL, NO TURNING BACK NOW!



I OUGHTA KEPT MY BIG MOUTH SHUT! NOW, HOW WOULD THE **COMMISSIONER** HANDLE THIS SITUATION? WHAT'S THE **SECRET** OF HIS SUCCESS?

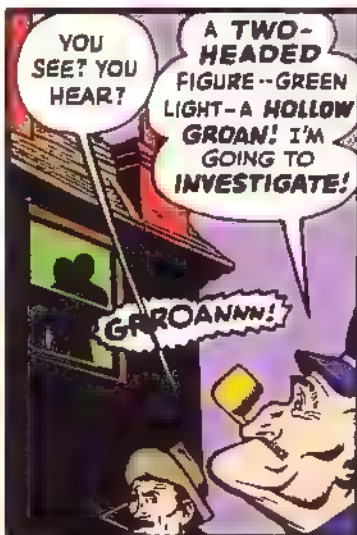
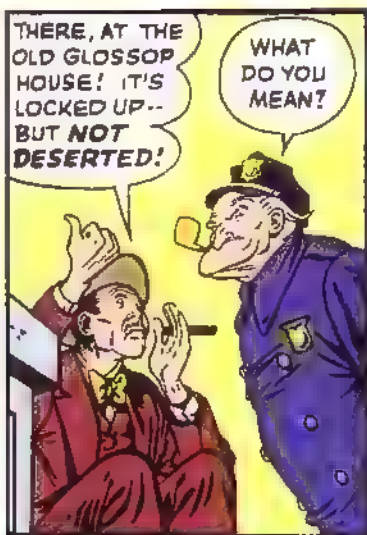
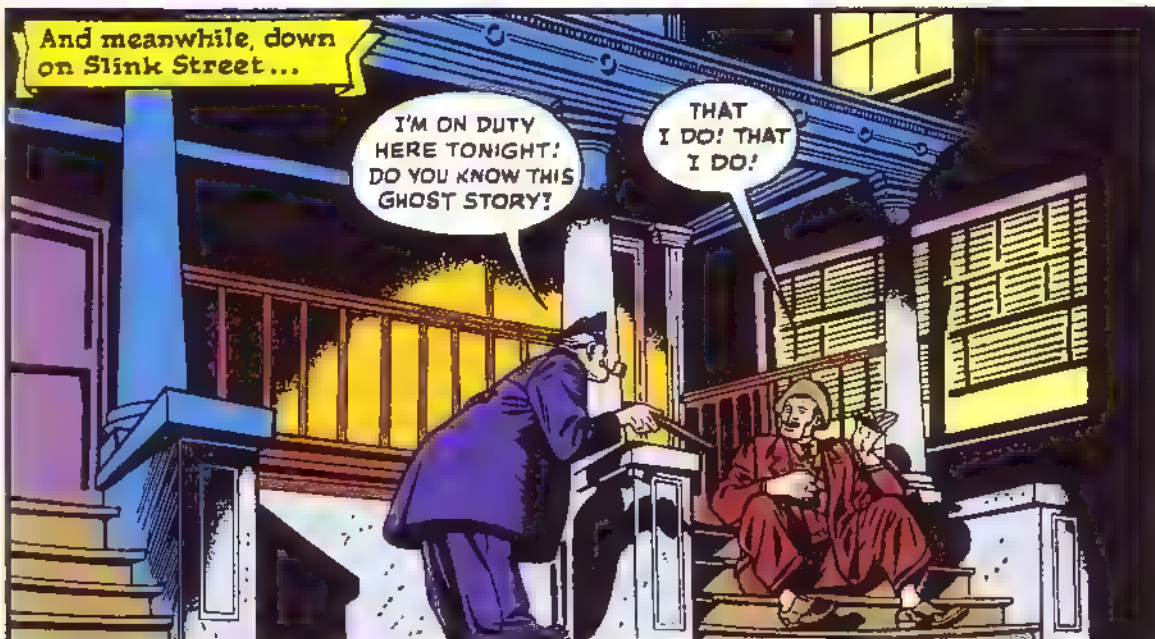
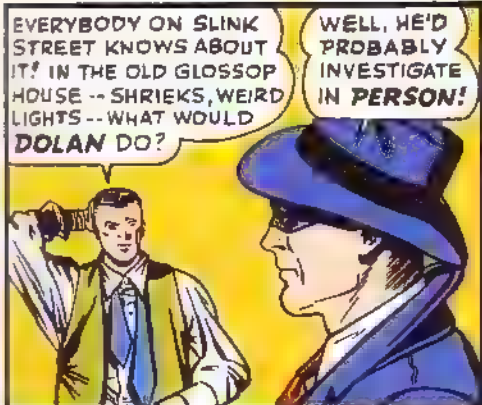


ME!

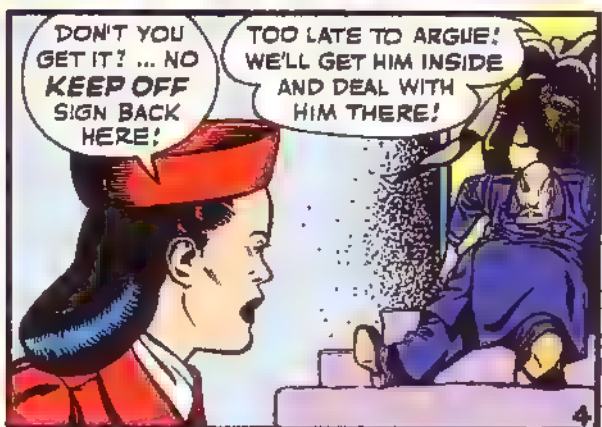
WHAT--  
WHO ARE YOU?

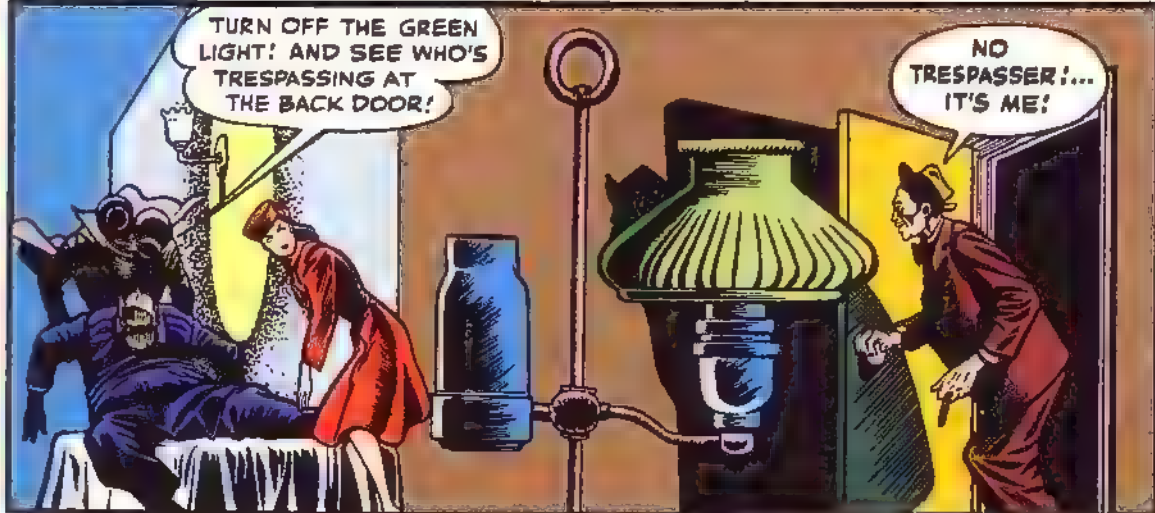


THE **SPIRIT!** NOW, WHAT'S THIS GHOST STORY YOU WERE TELLING?



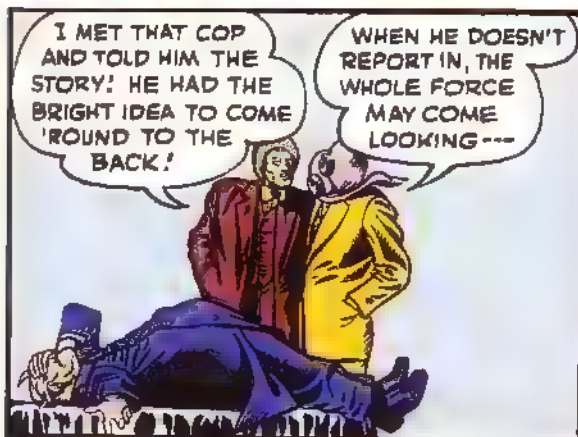






TURN OFF THE GREEN LIGHT! AND SEE WHO'S TRESPASSING AT THE BACK DOOR!

NO TRESPASSER!... IT'S ME!

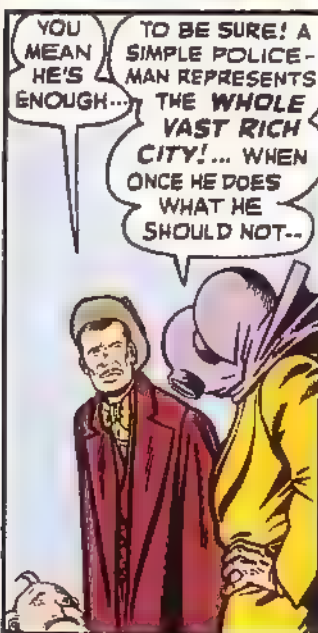


I MET THAT COP AND TOLD HIM THE STORY! HE HAD THE BRIGHT IDEA TO COME 'ROUND TO THE BACK!

WHEN HE DOESN'T REPORT IN, THE WHOLE FORCE MAY COME LOOKING---

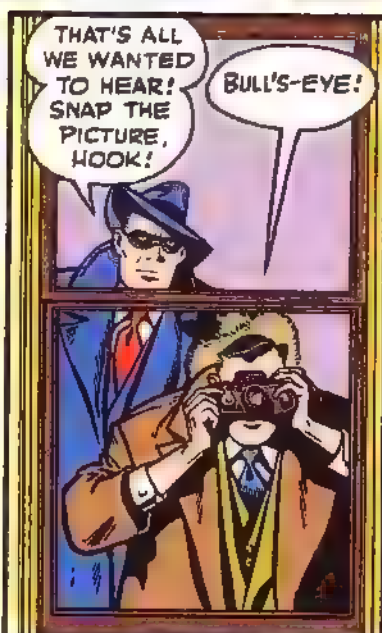


GOOD! WHEN THEY COME, WE'LL BE READY! THIS ONE MEDDLER HAS DONE US GOOD SERVICE!



YOU MEAN HE'S ENOUGH...

TO BE SURE! A SIMPLE POLICE-MAN REPRESENTS THE WHOLE VAST RICH CITY!... WHEN ONCE HE DOES WHAT HE SHOULD NOT--



THAT'S ALL WE WANTED TO HEAR! SNAP THE PICTURE, HOOK!

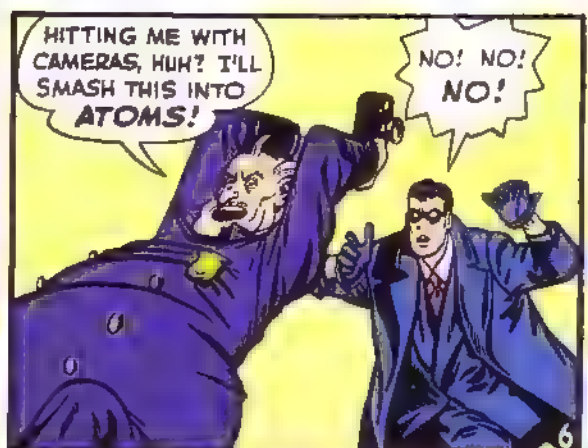
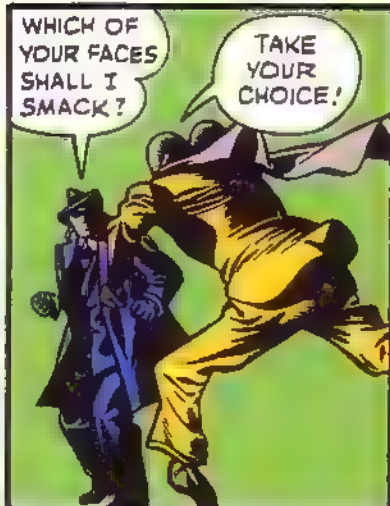
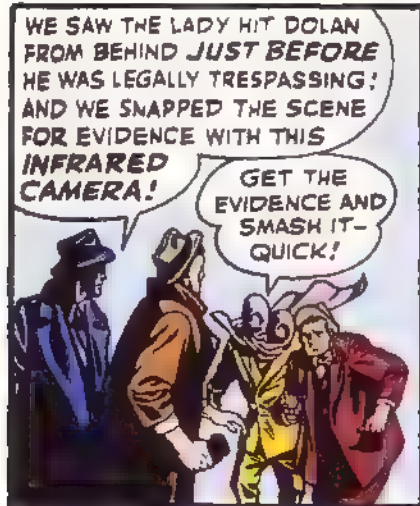
BULL'S-EYE!

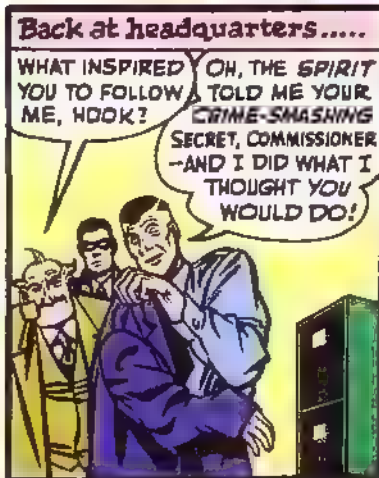
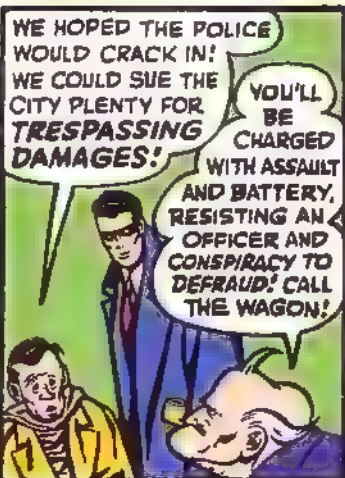
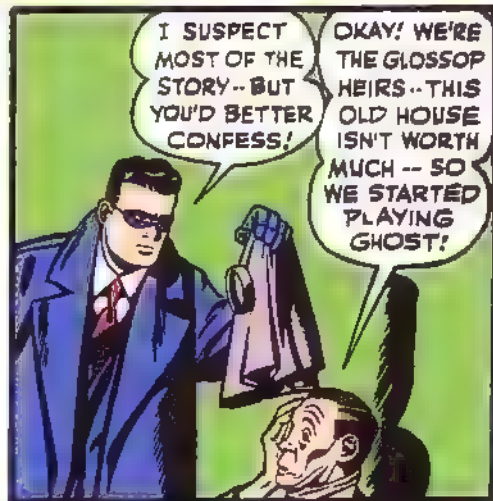
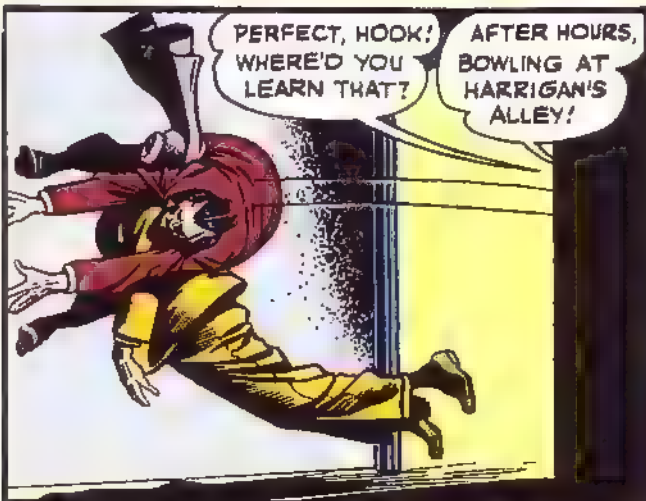


MORE TRESPASSERS! IF WE KILL THEM, WE'RE WITHIN OUR RIGHTS!

NO, YOU FORGET THE LAW! ANYONE SEEING A CRIME COMMITTED MAY MOVE TO BRING IT TO JUSTICE-- WITHOUT A WARRANT OR OTHER PERMISSION!

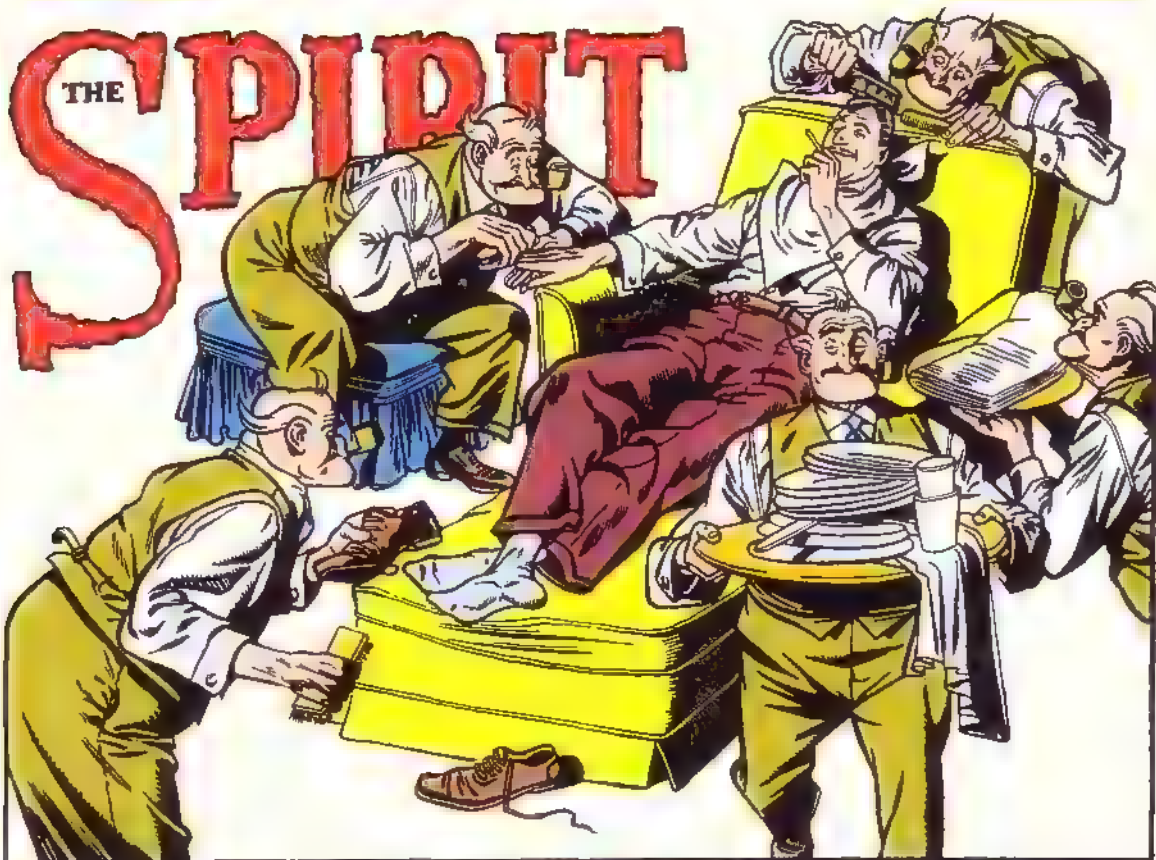








February 11 1945



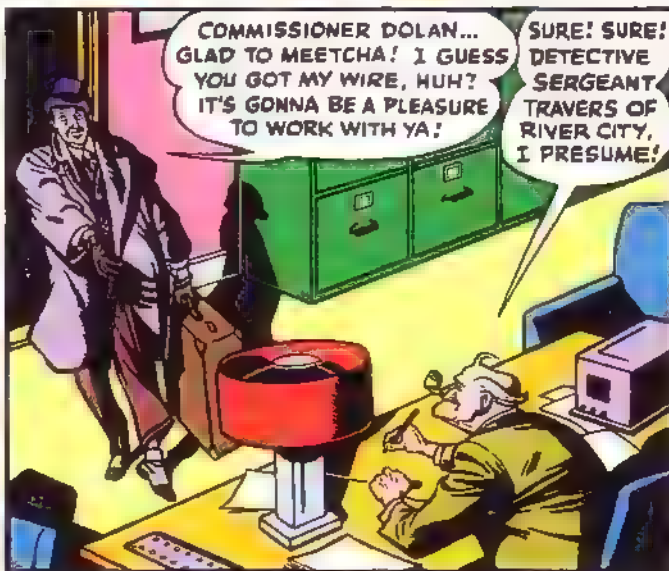
**YOU TWO'D BETTER  
GET OUT! SOME-  
BODY'S ON HIS  
WAY IN HERE!**

**I WAS  
JUST LEAVING  
ANYWAY!**



COMMISSIONER DOLAN...  
GLAD TO MEETCHA! I GUESS  
YOU GOT MY WIRE, HUH?  
IT'S GONNA BE A PLEASURE  
TO WORK WITH YA!

**SURE! SURE!  
DETECTIVE  
SERGEANT  
TRAVERS OF  
RIVER CITY,  
I PRESUME!**



THE SAME, COMMISSIONER, THE SAME! AND HOT ON THE TRAIL OF AS FOUL A FIEND AS EVER WORRIED A COP!

YOU MEAN SOAPY CONNORS?



WHO ELSE BUT THAT CROOK, THAT BLACKMAILER, THAT MURDERER, THAT MENACE TO SOCIETY? BUT WE'LL FIND HIM!

DID YOU HAVE ANY CLUES THAT LED YOU TO BELIEVE HE'S IN CENTRAL CITY?



NO CIGARS! AH, BUT YOU'RE A PIPE SMOKER! CLUES, EH? I'VE GOT PLENTY OF 'EM! IT'LL TAKE TIME TO CATCH UP WITH HIM--BUT TRAVERS'LL DO IT!



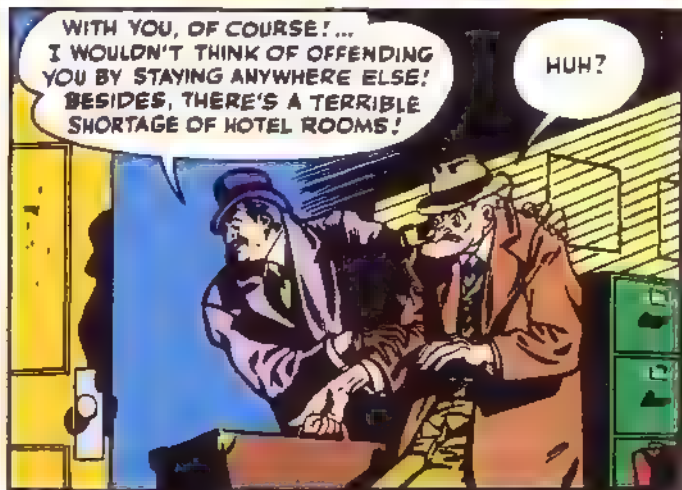
FIVE O'CLOCK! TIME TO QUIT WORK FOR THE DAY! LET'S GO, COMMISSIONER!

WHERE ARE YOU STAYING?



WITH YOU, OF COURSE! ... I WOULDN'T THINK OF OFFENDING YOU BY STAYING ANYWHERE ELSE! BESIDES, THERE'S A TERRIBLE SHORTAGE OF HOTEL ROOMS!

HUH?



ELLEN, WE'VE GOT COMPANY FOR DINNER!

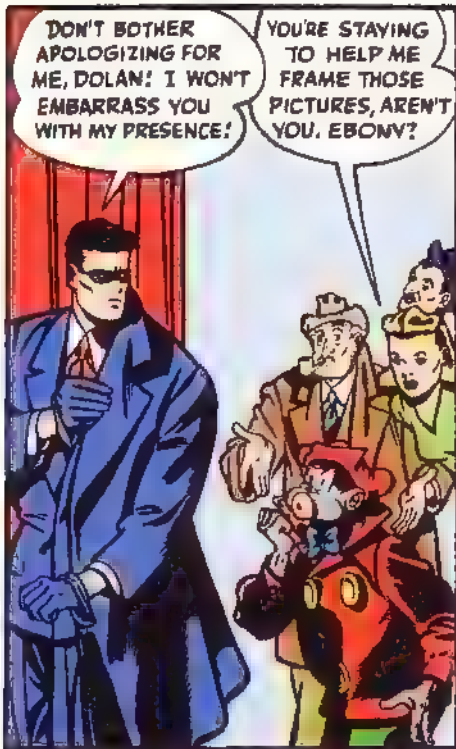


WHO'S HE?

ER ... THAT'S THE SPIRIT! YOU'RE A DETECTIVE ... YOU SURELY UNDERSTAND THAT, EVEN THOUGH HE'S AN OUTLAW, THE SPIRIT'S A PRETTY GOOD MAN, SOMETIMES!







DON'T BOTHER  
APOLOGIZING FOR  
ME, DOLAN: I WON'T  
EMBARRASS YOU  
WITH MY PRESENCE!

YOU'RE STAYING  
TO HELP ME  
FRAME THOSE  
PICTURES, AREN'T  
YOU, EBONY?



IT'S DANGEROUS, DOLAN  
...VERY DANGEROUS!  
NEVER TRUST AN OUTLAW  
EVEN IF HE DOES SEEM  
TO BE ON YOUR SIDE!  
WHY, I CAN REMEMBER  
AN EXPERIENCE I HAD  
WITH AN OUTLAW ....



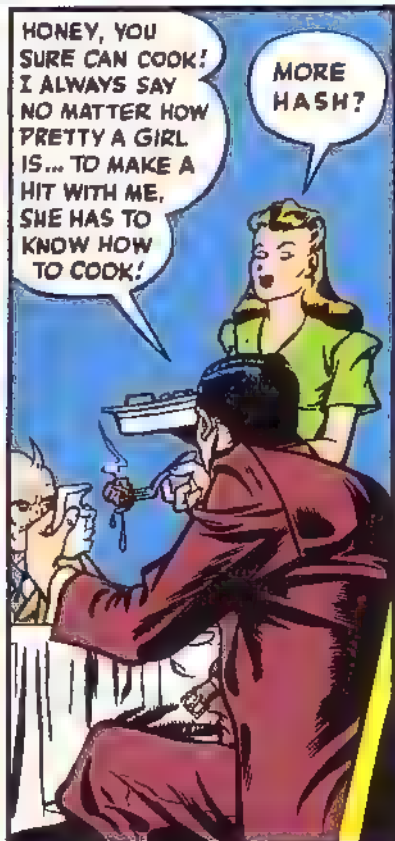
BUT  
THE SPIRIT'S  
DIFFERENT!

WELL...WELL  
... QUITE A  
GIRL YOU HAVE  
HERE, COMMISSIONER  
... TRAVERS IS THE  
NAME, HONEY!  
BUT YOU CAN  
CALL ME  
CHICKIE!



CHICKIE?

JUST A  
NICKNAME,  
COMMISSIONER!  
HEH! HEH!  
THE LADIES  
LOVE IT!



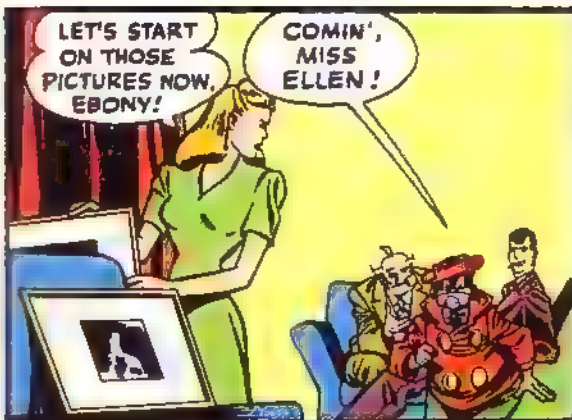
HONEY, YOU  
SURE CAN COOK!  
I ALWAYS SAY  
NO MATTER HOW  
PRETTY A GIRL  
IS... TO MAKE A  
HIT WITH ME,  
SHE HAS TO  
KNOW HOW  
TO COOK!

MORE  
HASH?



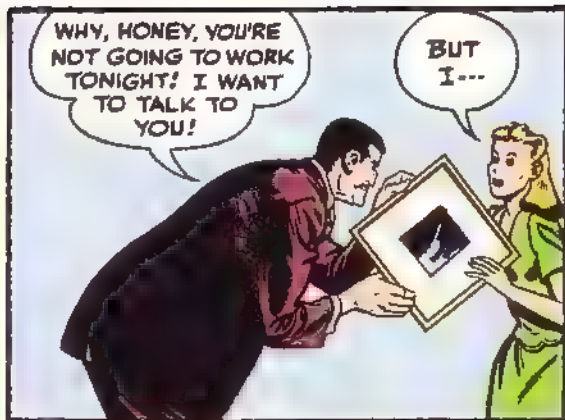
ABOUT THOSE  
CLUES TO  
O'CONNOR'S  
WHEREABOUTS...

LET'S NOT  
TALK BUSINESS  
ON MY FIRST  
NIGHT HERE,  
COMMISSIONER!  
LET'S JUST HAVE  
A QUIET EVENING  
AT HOME!



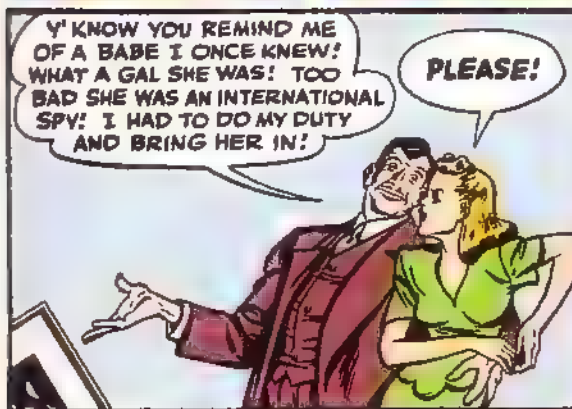
LET'S START  
ON THOSE  
PICTURES NOW,  
EBONY!

COMIN',  
MISS  
ELLEN!



WHY, HONEY, YOU'RE  
NOT GOING TO WORK  
TONIGHT! I WANT  
TO TALK TO  
YOU!

BUT  
I---



Y' KNOW YOU REMIND ME  
OF A BABE I ONCE KNEW!  
WHAT A GAL SHE WAS! TOO  
BAD SHE WAS AN INTERNATIONAL  
SPY! I HAD TO DO MY DUTY  
AND BRING HER IN!

PLEASE!



YEP, I'VE HAD SOME PRETTY  
TERRIFIC ADVENTURES IN MY  
TIME! WHY, YOU COULD  
STAY UP ALL NIGHT  
LISTENING TO ME!



I THINK  
I'D RATHER  
NOT, MR.  
TRAVERS!

GUESS MISS  
ELLEN AN' ME  
WON'T BE  
FRAMIN' THOSE  
PICTURES  
TONIGHT!



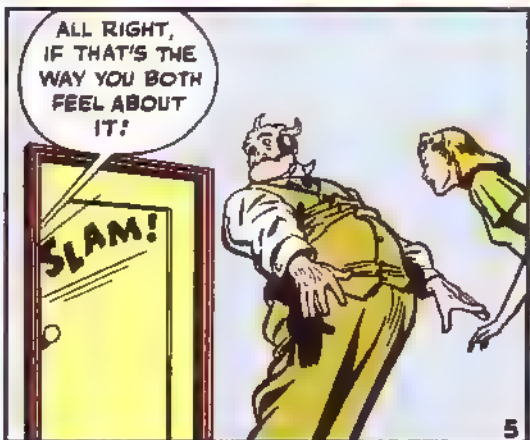
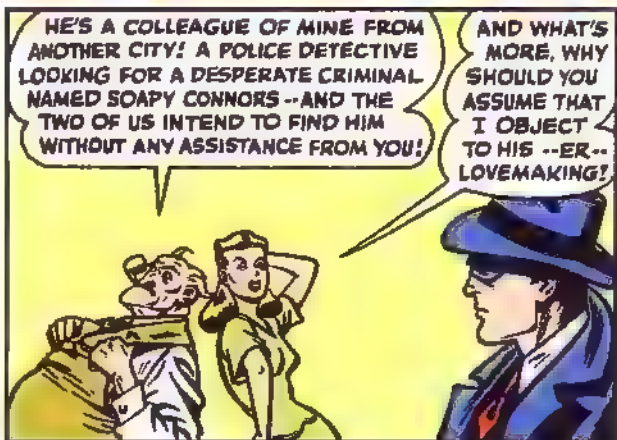
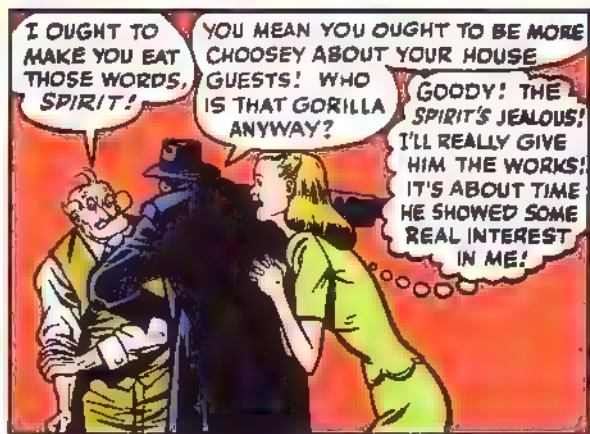
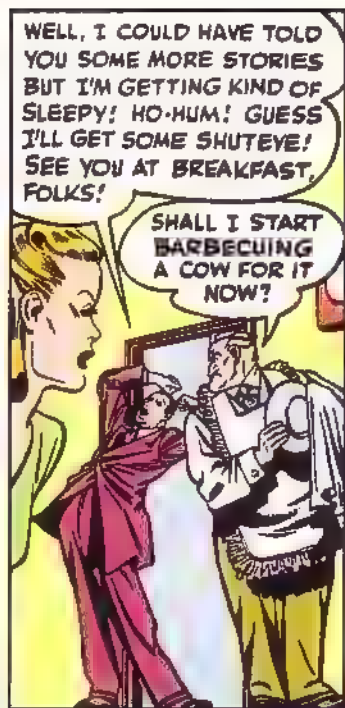
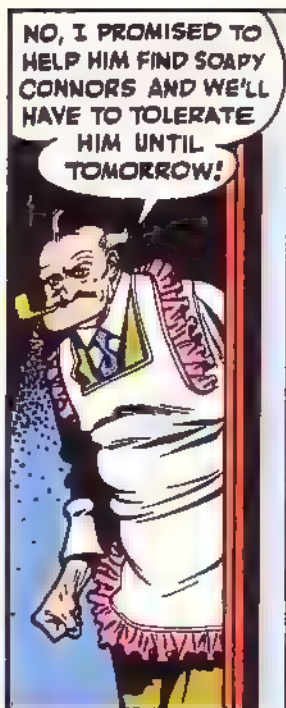
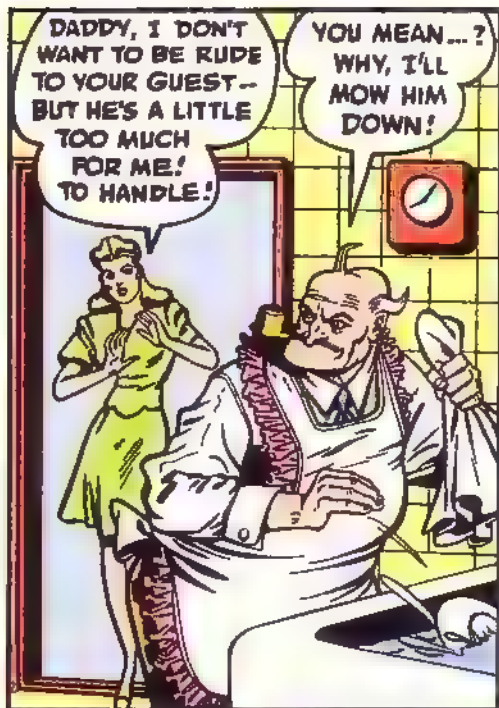
I THOUGHT  
YOU WERE  
GOING TO  
HELP ELLEN  
WITH THOSE  
PICTURES!

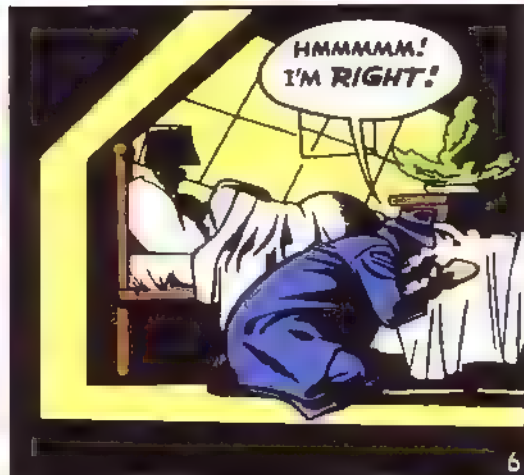
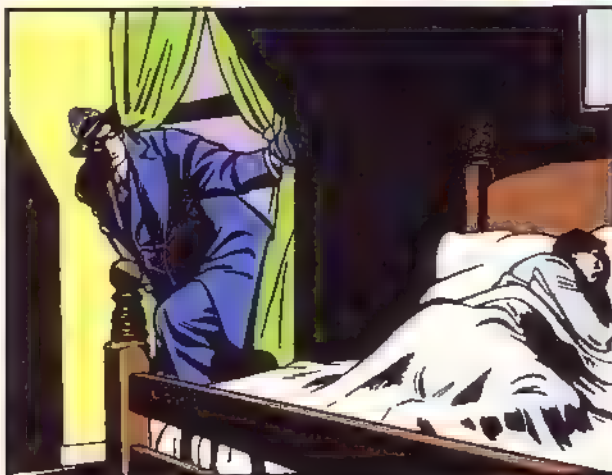
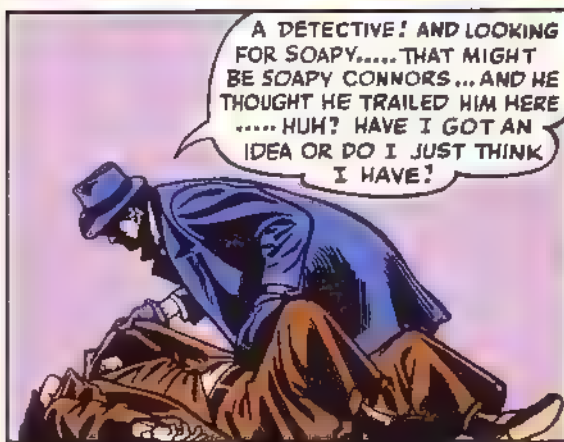
AH WAS, MIST'  
SPIRIT BOSS  
...BUT THAT  
DETECTIVE'S  
KEEPIN' HER  
BUSY TELLIN'  
HER STORIES  
AN' ACTIN'  
MUSHY!



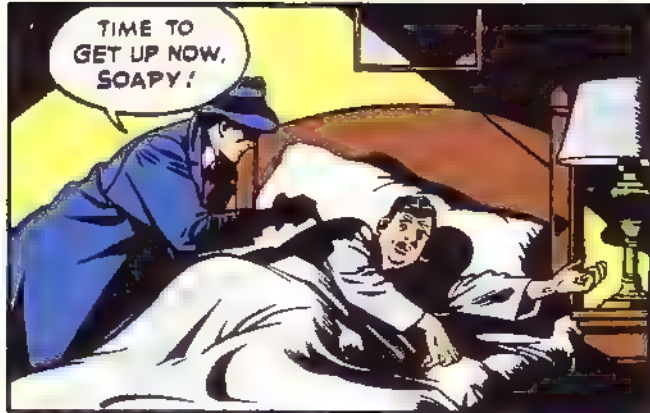
WHAT? THAT  
DOESN'T SOUND  
LIKE ELLEN TO  
ME! WE'RE GOING  
BACK THERE!











TIME TO  
GET UP NOW,  
SOAPY!



I KNEW IT  
WOULDN'T BE  
NICE TO HAVE YOU  
AROUND!



YOU SHOULD HAVE  
HIT ME HARDER...  
THEN YOU COULD  
HAVE AVOIDED  
THIS!



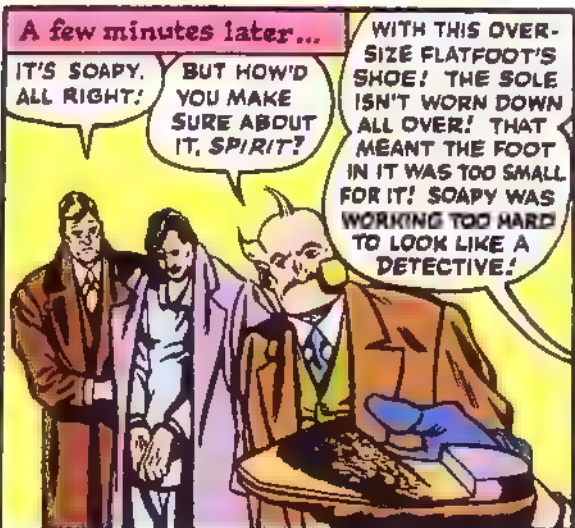
SO YOU  
CAUSED ALL  
THE NOISE!  
I THOUGHT  
YOU HAD  
LEFT, SPIRIT!

I SNEAKED  
IN AGAIN TO  
MAKE SURE  
THAT YOU WERE  
HARBORING  
SOAPY  
CONNORS UNDER  
YOUR ROOF, DOLAN!  
HE SEEMS TO BE  
USING YOUR  
HOUSE AS  
A HIDEOUT!



ME HARBORING SOAPY  
CONNORS? BUT THAT... THAT'S  
DETECTIVE SERGEANT TRAVERS  
OF RIVER CITY!

EVERYBODY'S  
MISTAKING EVERYBODY  
ELSE FOR SOAPY  
CONNORS! THERE'S A  
DETECTIVE RESTING  
OUTSIDE, WHO THOUGHT  
I WAS SOAPY IN  
DISGUISE!

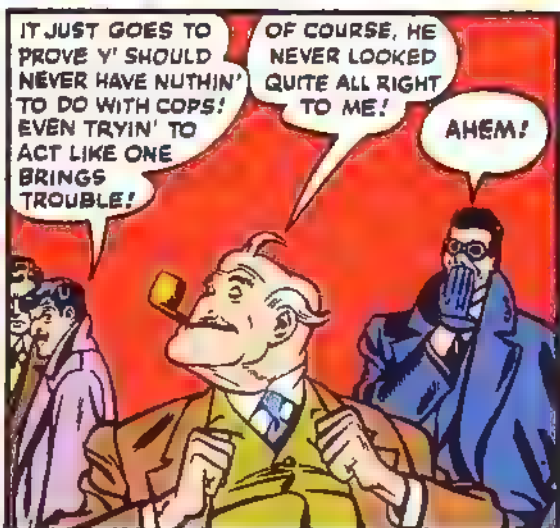


A few minutes later...

IT'S SOAPY.  
ALL RIGHT!

BUT HOW'D  
YOU MAKE  
SURE ABOUT  
IT, SPIRIT?

WITH THIS OVER-  
SIZE FLATFOOT'S  
SHOE! THE SOLE  
ISN'T WORN DOWN  
ALL OVER! THAT  
MEANT THE FOOT  
IN IT WAS TOO SMALL  
FOR IT! SOAPY WAS  
WORKING TOO HARD  
TO LOOK LIKE A  
DETECTIVE!

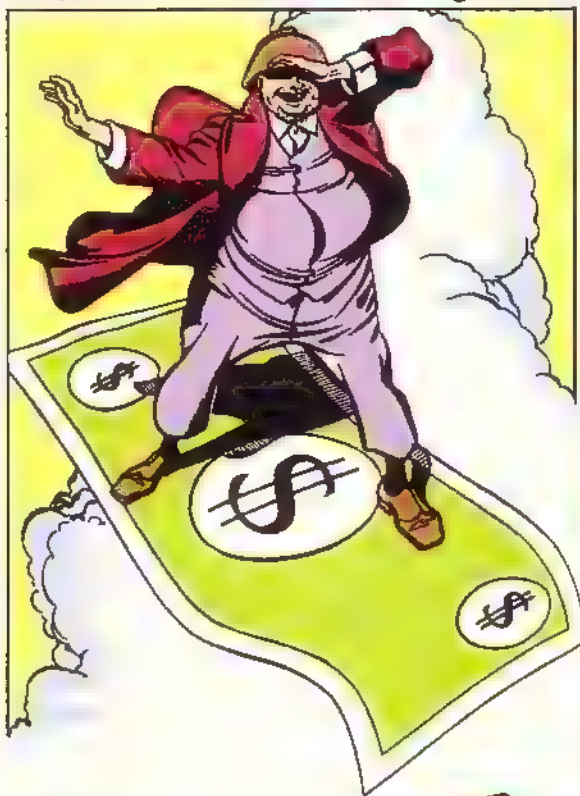


IT JUST GOES TO  
PROVE Y' SHOULD  
NEVER HAVE NUTHIN'  
TO DO WITH COPS!  
EVEN TRYIN' TO  
ACT LIKE ONE  
BRINGS  
TROUBLE!

OF COURSE, HE  
NEVER LOOKED  
QUITE ALL RIGHT  
TO ME!

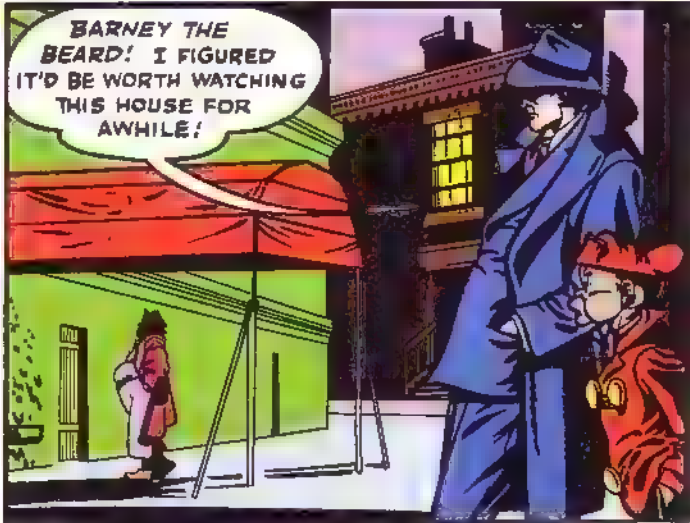
AHEM!

When an honest dollar--*BRRMPH!*--pardon us  
--when a dollar was to be made, **BARNEY THE  
BEARD** was never the one to shirk a flight  
into fancy or a little "derring-do" to put  
himself within reach of a bit of the green!...



**THE  
SPIRIT**





IN THAT HOUSE A MAN LIES DYING! THIS MEDICINE MAY SAVE HIS LIFE! IT IS YOUR DUTY TO HUMANITY, SPIRIT, TO SEE THAT I GET THROUGH!

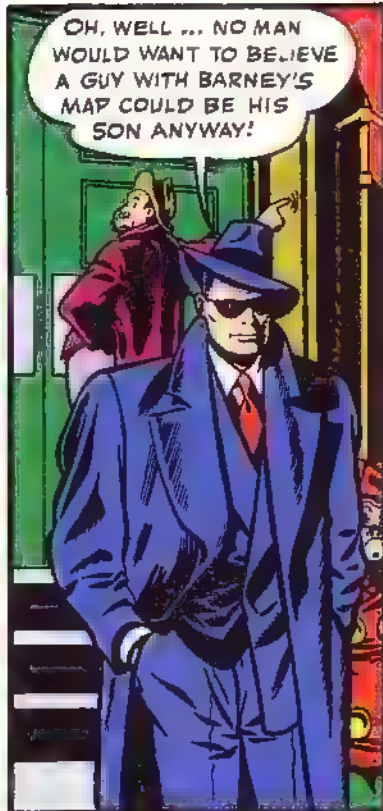
MIST' SPIRIT BOSS, HE'S A GOOD HEARTED MAN! HE AIN'T NO CROOK!



A CROOK?... ME? WHY, I'VE BEEN GOING STRAIGHT FOR... FOR WEEKS!

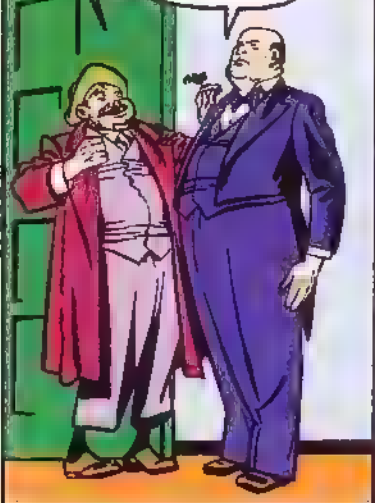


OH, WELL ... NO MAN WOULD WANT TO BELIEVE A GUY WITH BARNEY'S MAP COULD BE HIS SON ANYWAY!



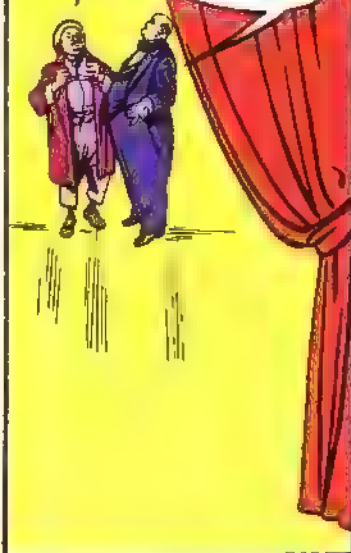
OUR OLD FAITHFUL BUTLER! SO YOU STUCK WITH THE FAMILY THROUGH THICK AND THIN! IT'S BEEN TWENTY-FIVE YEARS SINCE I'VE SEEN YOU ... ER...

TOMKINS, SIR! I'VE BEEN WORKING FOR MR. SWACK THREE MONTHS!

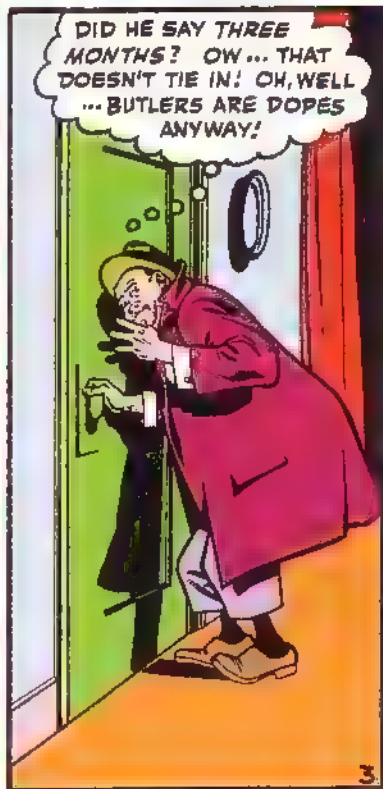


THREE MONTHS! THINK OF THAT! AND YOU DON'T LOOK A DAY OLDER THAN THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU! WHICH ONE IS MY OLD MAN'S BEDROOM?

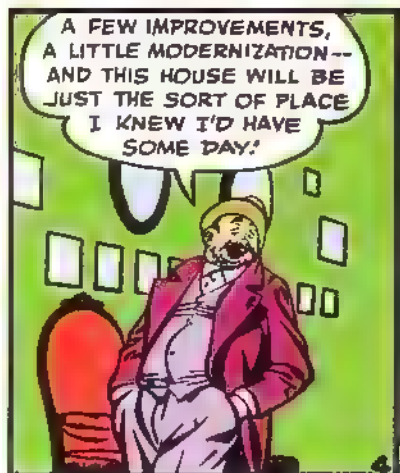
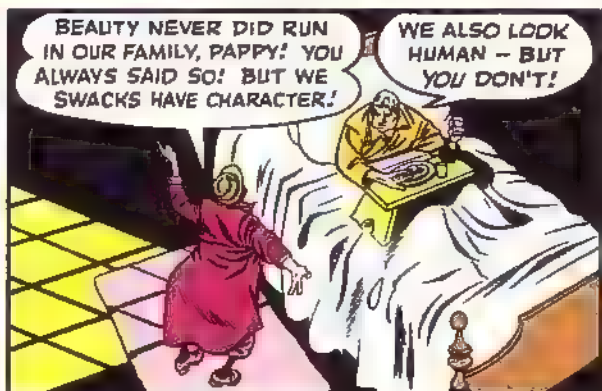
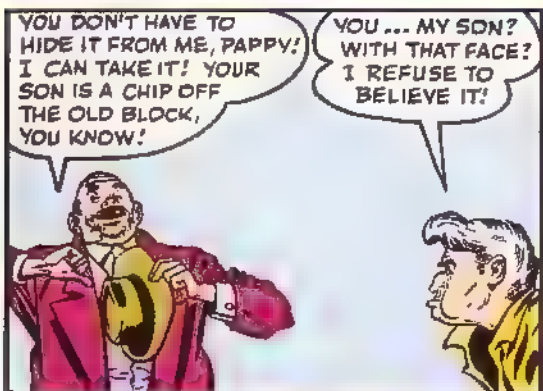
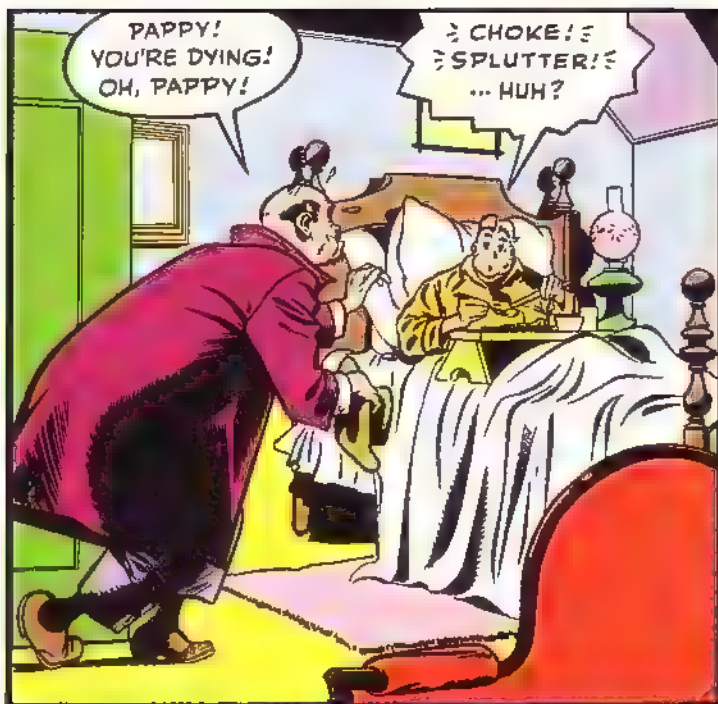
THE SECOND DOWN THE HALL, SIR!

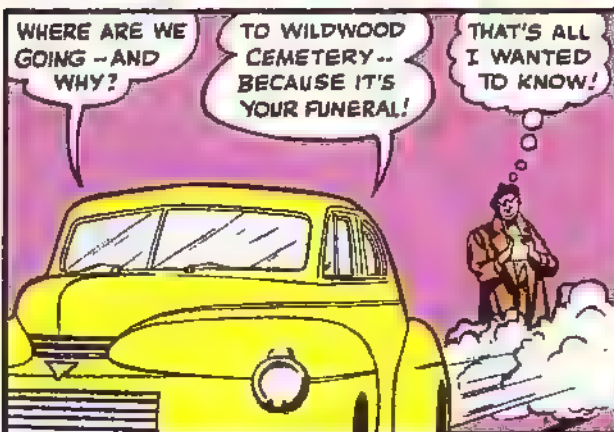
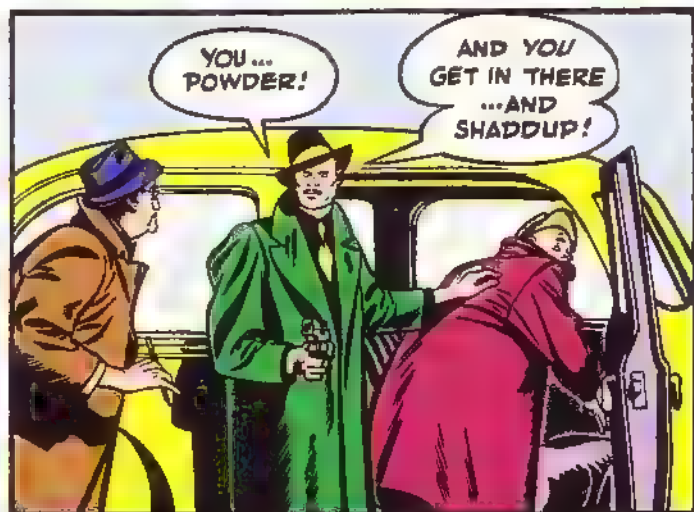
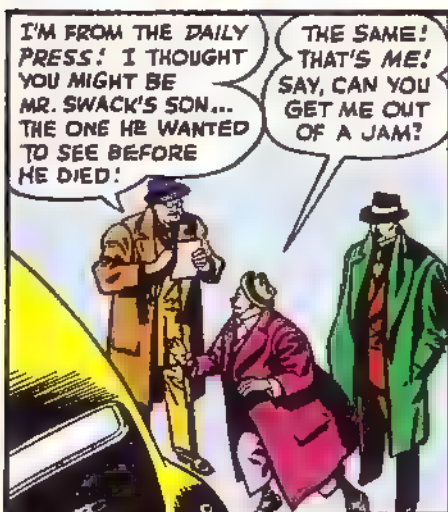
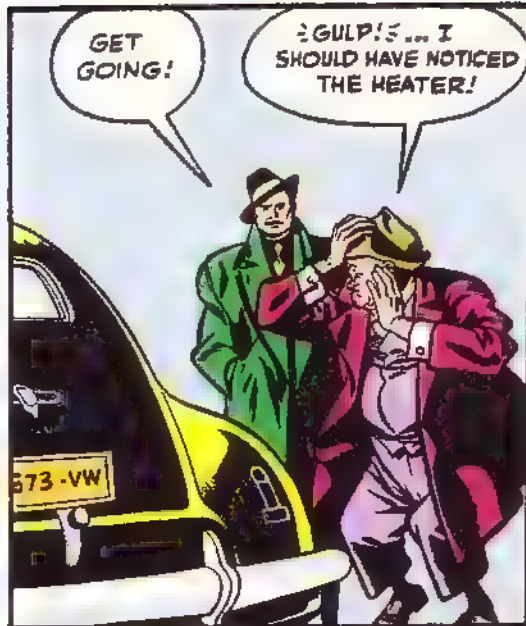


DID HE SAY THREE MONTHS? OW... THAT DOESN'T TIE IN! OH, WELL ... BUTLERS ARE DOPES ANYWAY!











And as the **SPIRIT** and **Ebony** walk toward their mausoleum home...

SO I SUPPOSE YOU FORGOT **RUSTY RINGEL**, **SWACK!** MAYBE YOU DON'T REMEMBER HOW WE WERE RUNNING GUNS DOWN IN THE **CARIBBEAN** AND YOU RATTED TO THAT **BANANA REPUBLIC'S COPPERS!**

YOU'VE GOT ME WRONG, **PAL!** THAT WAS ANOTHER GUY!



NO, IT WASN'T, **SWACK!** I ALWAYS FIGURED YOU'D TURN UP AT YOUR RICH OLD MAN'S SOONER OR LATER... AND AFTER WAITING FOR TEN YEARS IN A HOT PRISON, I LEARNED A LOT OF PATIENCE!

BUT I'M NOT **SWACK!**



THAT **BEARD** DOESN'T FOOL ME! YOU'RE GETTING IT!

DON'T SHOOT! MY NAME'S **BARNEY THE BEARD!**



AND HE ISN'T KIDDING!

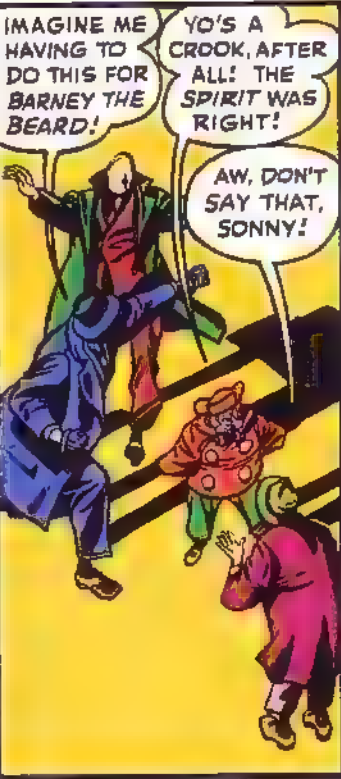
**THE SPIRIT!**



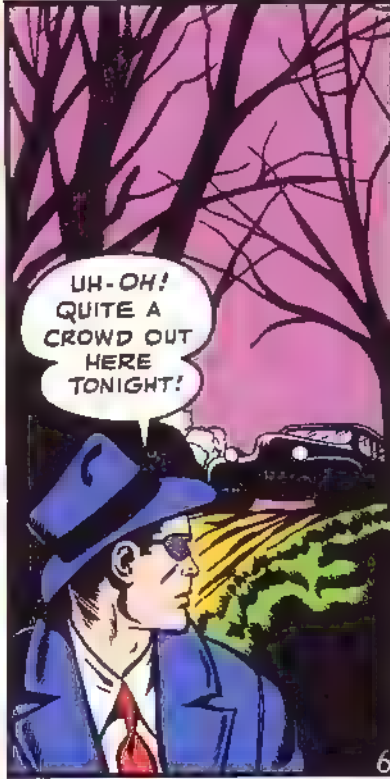
IMAGINE ME HAVING TO DO THIS FOR **BARNEY THE BEARD!**

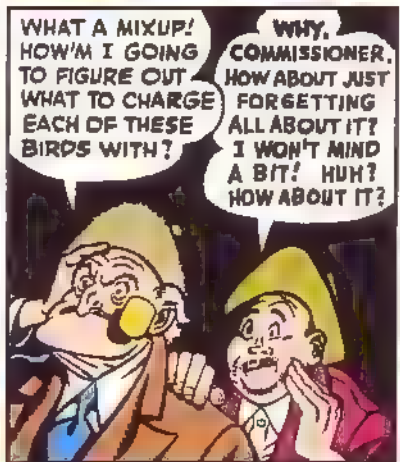
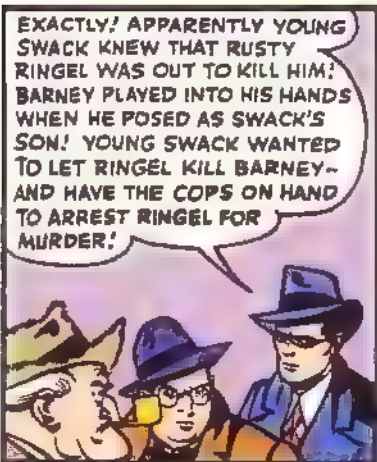
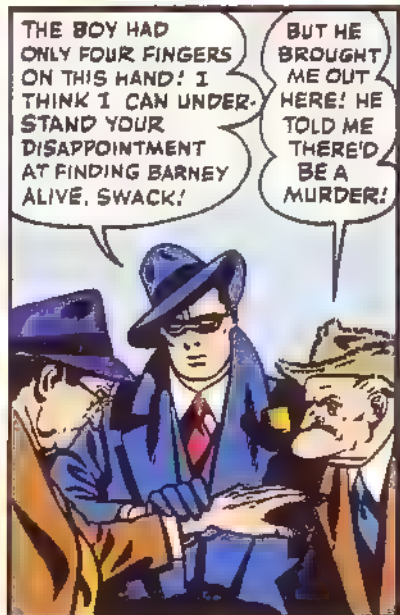
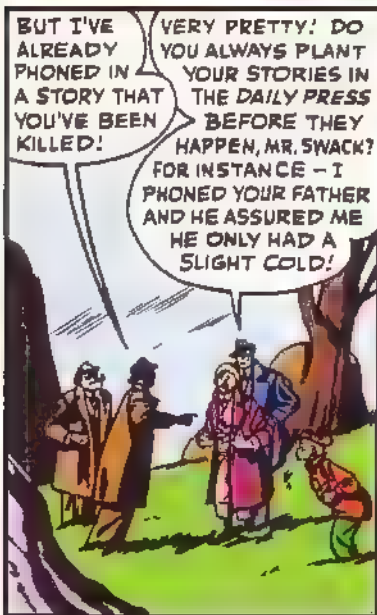
YO'S A CROOK, AFTER ALL! THE **SPIRIT** WAS RIGHT!

AW, DON'T SAY THAT, **SONNY!**



UH-OH! QUITE A CROWD OUT HERE TONIGHT!







COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

THIS HOUSE MUST GO

February 25 1945

ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

The  
**Spirit**

by  
Will Eisner



This House  
must **GO!**

We will give it  
away **FREE!**

You pay  
**ABSOLUTELY  
NOTHING!**

Inquire next door->





THERE WAS AN  
ELECTRIC BATTERY...  
GAVE EBONY A  
**NASTY SHOCK!**  
I'D BETTER CALL  
A DOCTOR!



CENTRAL,  
CONNECT ME  
WITH ---  
**BLUB!**



THINGS IS  
SPINNIN'  
ROUND AN'  
ROUND!

LIE DOWN  
A MOMENT,  
EBONY!  
I'LL GET  
HELP FOR  
YOU!



LET ME USE  
YOUR PHONE!  
I NEED A ---



YES... YES...  
A DOCTOR!  
HELP YOURSELF!



RIGHT AWAY,  
DR. WARWICK!  
I'LL SEE YOU  
AT THE DOOR!

GLAD TO HELP  
YOU, AS ALWAYS,  
**SPIRIT!** I'LL  
BE THERE AT  
ONCE!



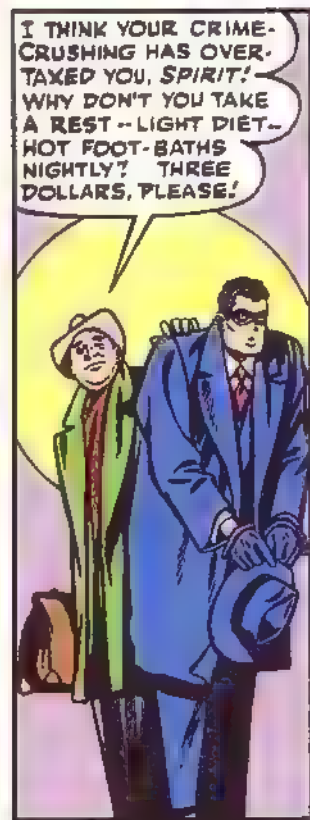
I'M SURPRISED TO  
HEAR THAT EBONY'S  
SICK, SPIRIT! HE  
HAS ALWAYS BEEN  
SUCH A HEALTHY  
KID!

IT'S A  
CASE OF  
ELECTRIC  
SHOCK!  
COME  
IN!

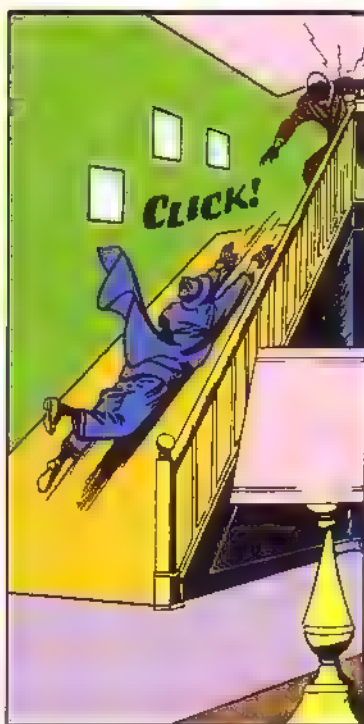
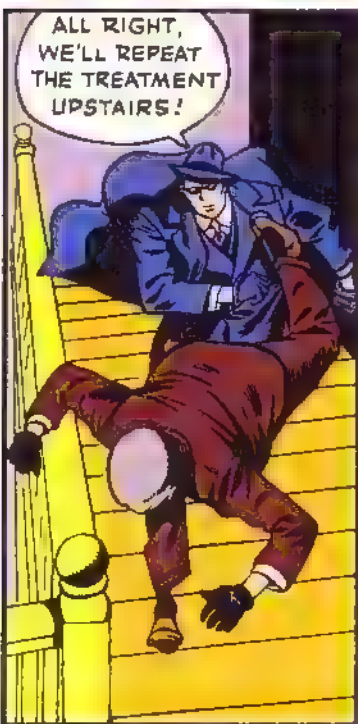
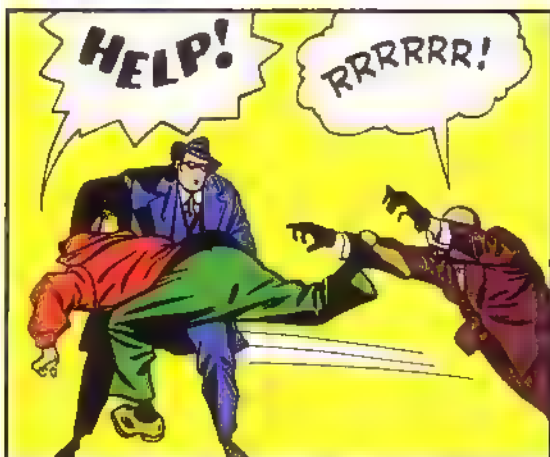
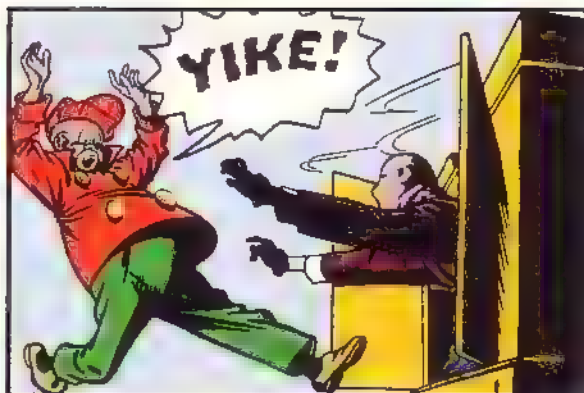
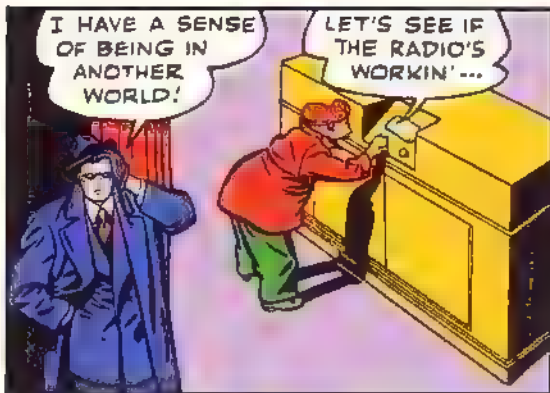


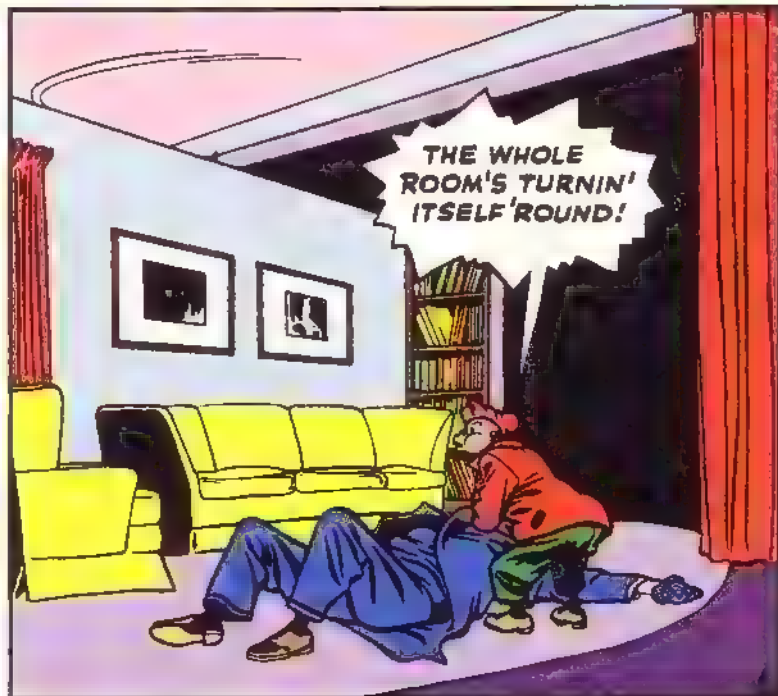
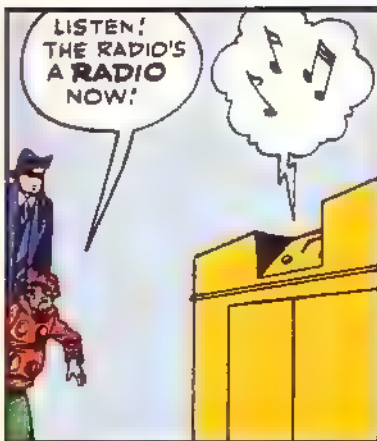
EBONY!  
HE'S ---  
**GONE!**



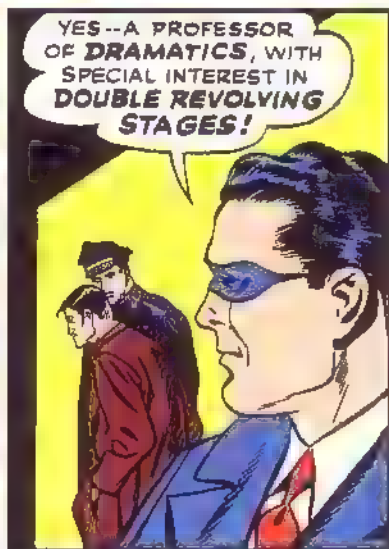












# The SPIRIT



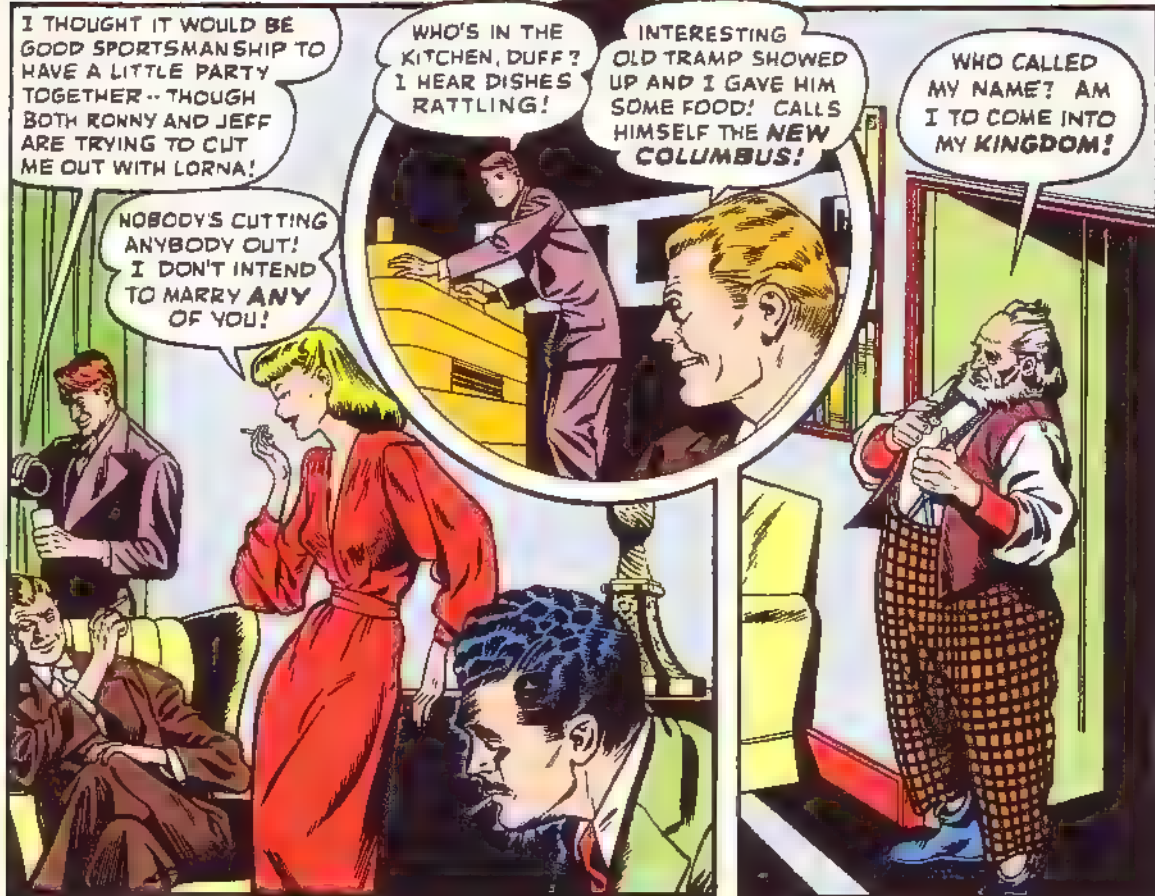
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP TO HAVE A LITTLE PARTY TOGETHER -- THOUGH BOTH RONNY AND JEFF ARE TRYING TO CUT ME OUT WITH LORNA!

NOBODYS CUTTING ANYBODY OUT! I DON'T INTEND TO MARRY ANY OF YOU!

WHO'S IN THE KITCHEN, DUFF? I HEAR DISHES RATTLING!

INTERESTING OLD TRAMP SHOWED UP AND I GAVE HIM SOME FOOD! CALLS HIMSELF THE NEW COLUMBUS!

WHO CALLED MY NAME? AM I TO COME INTO MY KINGDOM!





HOWDY, NEW COLUMBUS! I'M DUFF BURBAGE—GAVE YOU YOUR DINNER, REMEMBER?

YES, MY DINNER! IN MY KINGDOM YOU SHALL SERVE AS MY **HIGH STEWARD!**

PLEASED TO MEET YOU! I'M RONNY BEECH--

HEIR TO THE BEECH MILLIONS! YOU ARE MY **TREASURER--** YOU SHALL TURN OVER YOUR WEALTH TO ME!

WHAT BEAUTIFULLY POLISHED SHOES! YOU, SIR, SHALL BE MY **ROYAL BOOTBLACK!**

YOU'RE HONORED, JEFF! I'M GOING TO BE THE **CHAMBERMAID** I SUPPOSE!

NO, MY DEAR! I HONOR YOU ABOVE ALL OTHERS! YOU SHALL BE MY **EMPRESS!**

MARVELOUS! YOU THREE BOYS HAVE A **ROYAL RIVAL!** THIS IS **EXCRUCIATING!**

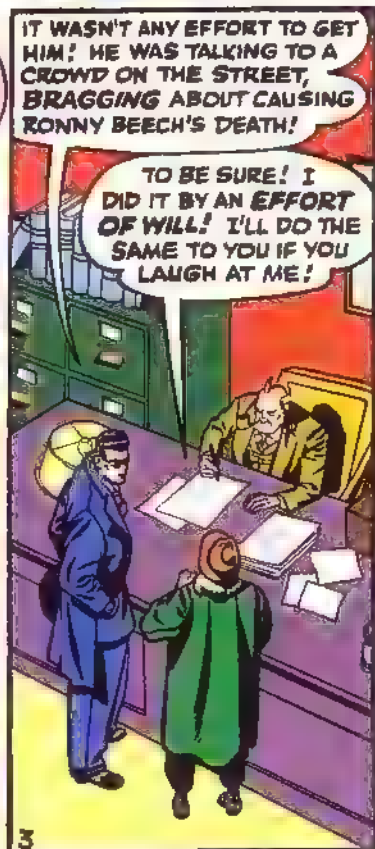
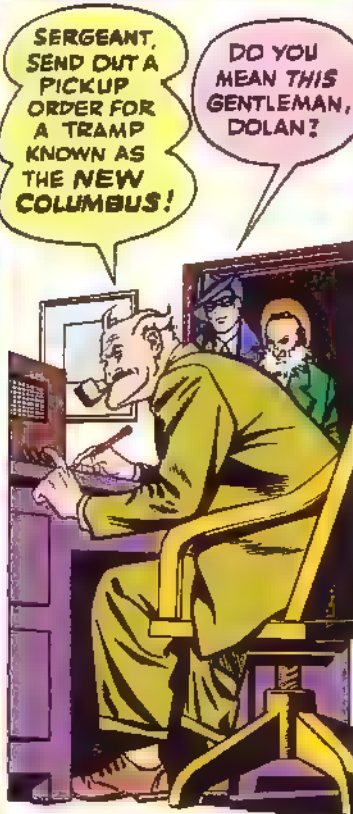
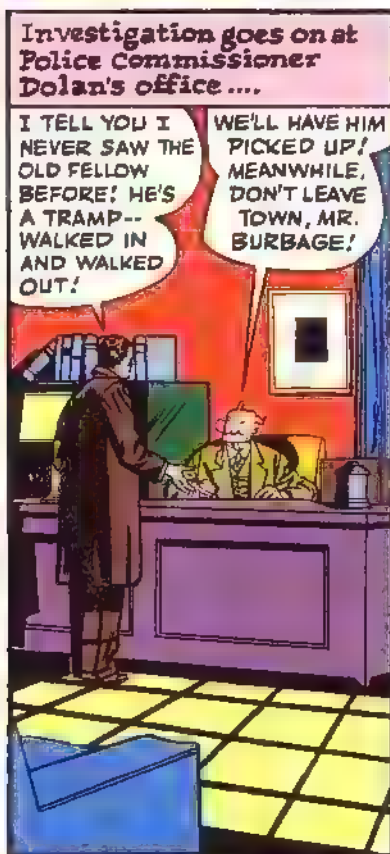
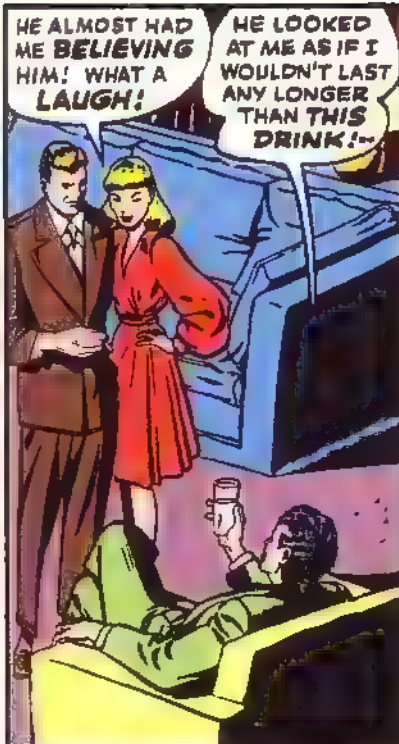
WAIT! YOU DON'T SEEM TO **BELIEVE** ME! YOU LAUGH-- **DEFY ME!**

OH, STOP IT! FINISH YOUR ACT SOME OTHER TIME! WE'RE GETTING **BORED!**

I AM THE **NEW COLUMBUS** BECAUSE I **DISCOVERED** A WAY TO **ENFORCE MY WILL!** I'LL PROVE IT--YOU SHALL DIE ONE BY ONE ---

IN WHAT ORDER?

YOU'LL FIND OUT--WHEN YOU **DIE!** GOODBYE, ALL OF YOU!





LOCK THIS MAN UP,  
HARRIGAN -- CHARGE  
HIM TECHNICALLY  
WITH **VAGRANCY!**

IT IS USELESS!  
EVEN FROM A **CELL**  
I CAN **THINK** MY  
ENEMIES TO  
DEATH!

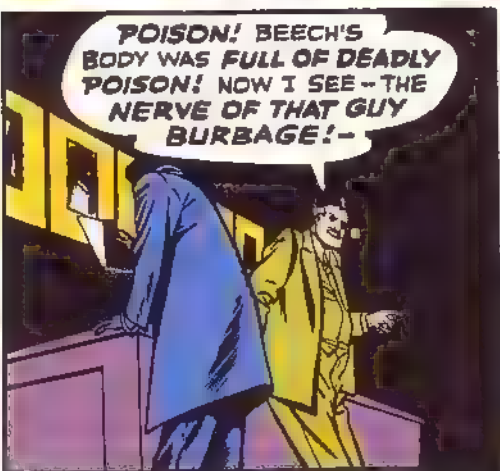


I SUPPOSE YOU  
THINK **THAT**  
SOLVES EVERY-  
THING!

WAIT! I  
WANT TO READ  
THIS REPORT  
ON THE  
AUTOPSY!

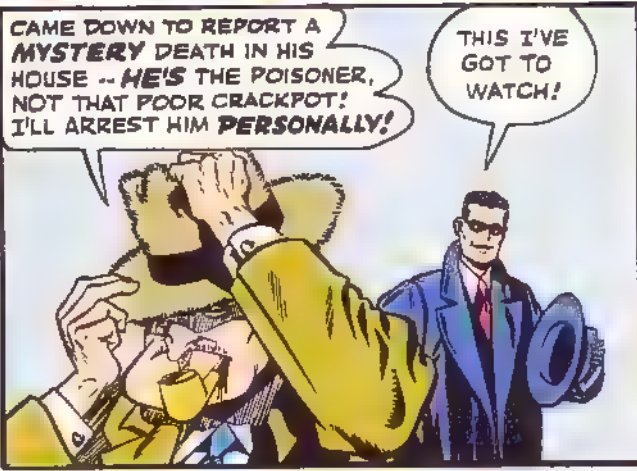


**POISON!** BEECH'S  
BODY WAS FULL OF DEADLY  
**POISON!** NOW I SEE -- THE  
NERVE OF THAT GUY  
**BURBAGE!** --



CAME DOWN TO REPORT A  
**MYSTERY** DEATH IN HIS  
HOUSE -- **HE'S** THE POISONER,  
NOT THAT POOR CRACKPOT!  
I'LL ARREST HIM **PERSONALLY!**

THIS I'VE  
GOT TO  
WATCH!

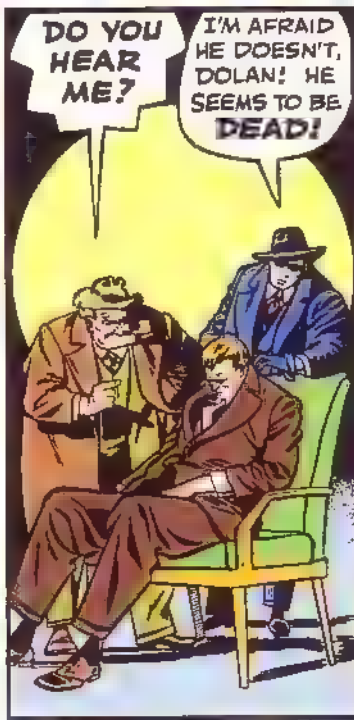


YOU'RE  
UNDER ARREST,  
DUFF BURBAGE!  
CONFESS YOU  
POISONED HIM,  
OR---



DO YOU  
HEAR  
ME?

I'M AFRAID  
HE DOESN'T,  
DOLAN! HE  
SEEMS TO BE  
**DEAD!**



THAT PROVES  
IT! HE KNEW  
HE'D BE  
CAUGHT ---  
COMMITTED  
SUICIDE!

NOT UNLESS  
HE WAS A  
CONTORTIONIST  
AND STUCK  
THIS DAGGER  
IN HIS OWN  
BACK!



Back at Police Headquarters...

WHAT DID  
I TELL YOU?  
ONE BY ONE  
THEY DIE!

And not far away...

THAT OLD BOY SEEMS  
TO BE MAKING GOOD  
ON HIS BLUFF!  
BUT HOW?

I WISH I KNEW  
--NO, I DON'T! I  
**REALLY** WISH THAT  
I'D NEVER SEEN OR  
HEARD OF HIM!

LORNA, I'LL  
PROTECT YOU--  
I'LL DIE FOR  
YOUR SAKE--

WILL EVEN YOUR DEATH  
PROTECT ME, JEFF? I  
THINK THERE'S ONLY  
**ONE WAY TO  
SAVE US!**

RELEASE  
THE NEW  
COLUMBUS?  
BUT---

BUT YOU'RE  
HOLDING HIM  
ONLY ON A  
TECHNICAL  
VAGRANCY  
CHARGE! HERE'S  
A HABEAS CORPUS  
TO GET HIM  
OUT!

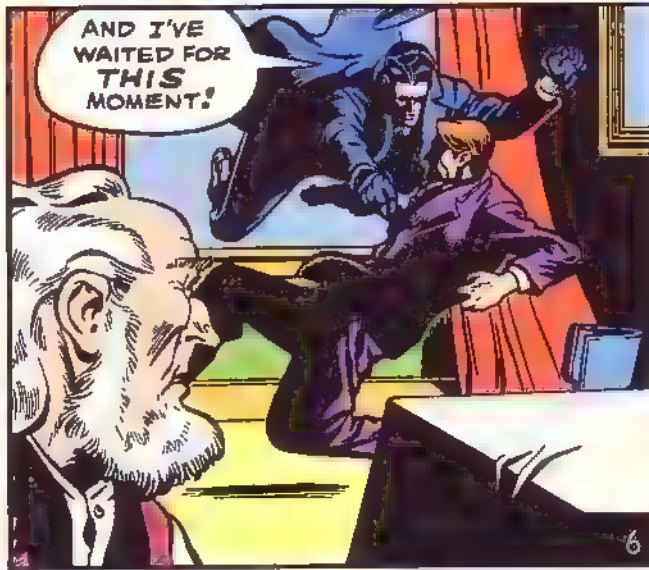
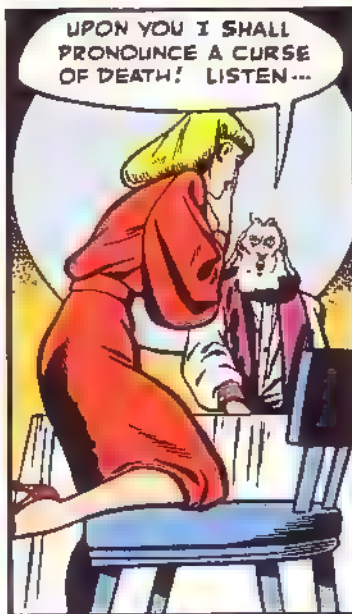
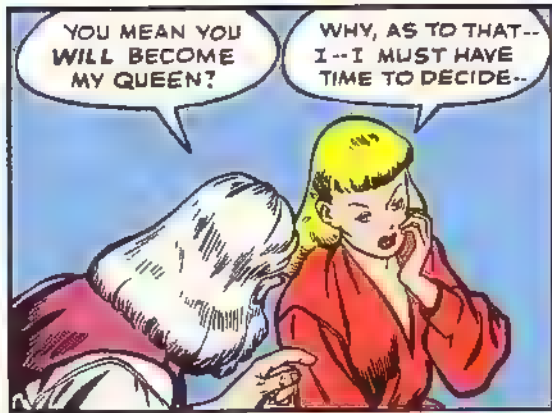
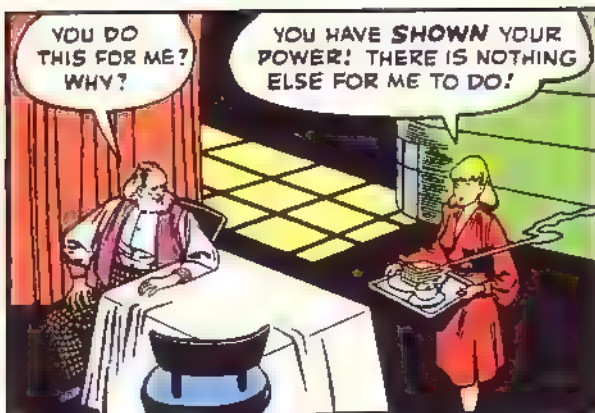
COME TO  
SNEER AGAIN?  
ONE EFFORT  
OF MY WILL,  
AND ---

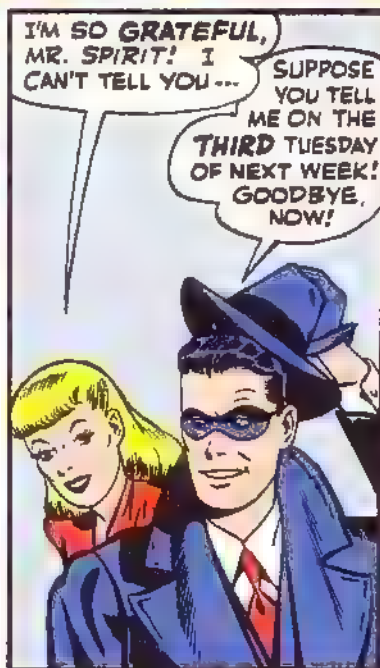
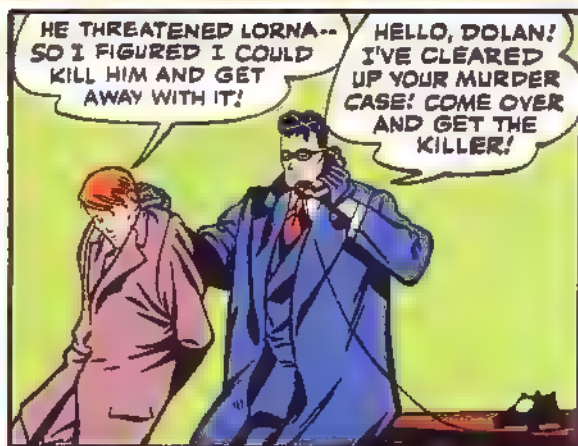
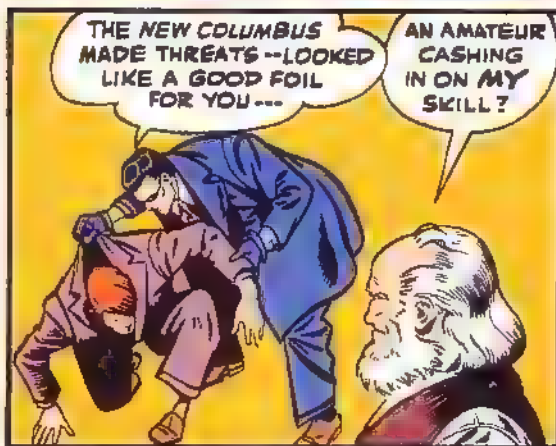
NO, PLEASE!  
YOU DON'T  
UNDERSTAND!  
I CAME TO  
GET YOU  
OUT!

WHERE  
ARE YOU  
TAKING  
ME?

TO MY HOME!  
I WANT TO SAY--  
I--I DON'T  
LAUGH ANY  
MORE!





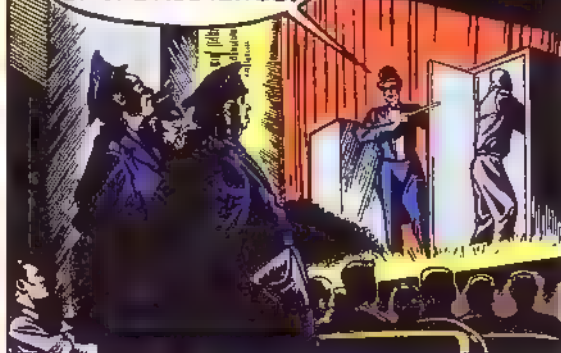




# THE SPIRIT

The famous MASKED MAGICIAN plays his annual show at the state prison ....

AND NOW FOR THE CLIMAX -- INTO THIS CABINET I MARCH THIS BLINDFOLDED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE!



NEXT, THE MAGIC WORDS -- SACRAMENTO! PRESTO SCRAMMO!



HE SEEMS TO BE GONE! JUST LIKE A PRISON BREAK -- HA! HA! HA!





BUT HE DIDN'T GET VERY FAR-- ONLY A MAGICAL TRANSFER TO **THIS** CABINET--WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE MADE HIM **DIZZY!**

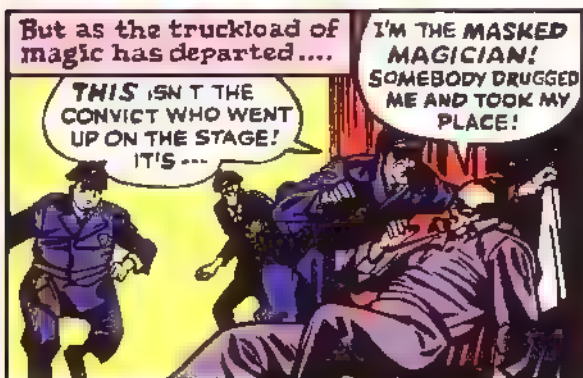


SIT HERE, MY FRIEND, AND RECOVER! MEANWHILE, THE SHOW'S OVER! CARRY MY EQUIPMENT OUT!



THANKS FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT! IT WAS **BEWILDERING!**

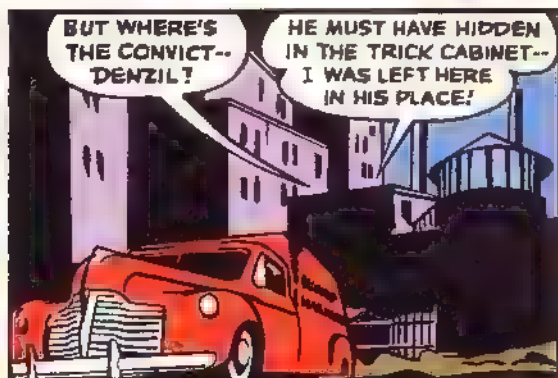
YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT, WARDEN!



But as the truckload of magic has departed....

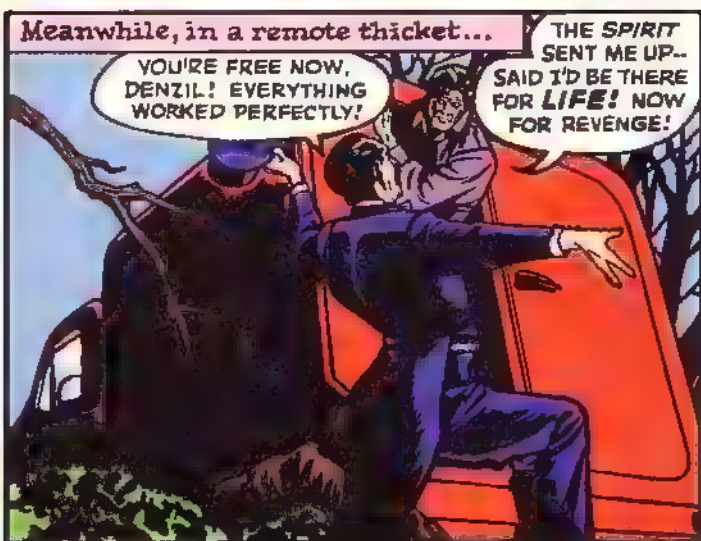
**THIS** ISN'T THE CONVICT WHO WENT UP ON THE STAGE! IT'S ---

I'M THE **MASKED MAGICIAN!** SOMEBODY DRUGGED ME AND TOOK MY PLACE!



BUT WHERE'S THE CONVICT-- **DENZIL!**

HE MUST HAVE HIDDEN IN THE TRICK CABINET-- I WAS LEFT HERE IN HIS PLACE!



Meanwhile, in a remote thicket...

YOU'RE FREE NOW, **DENZIL!** EVERYTHING WORKED PERFECTLY!

THE **SPIRIT** SENT ME UP-- SAID I'D BE THERE FOR **LIFE!** NOW FOR **REVENGE!**



REVENGE?... FIRST ON THE **SPIRIT?**

NO, HE COMES **SECOND!** FIRST COMES--



The radio carries the news—even to the strange cemetery lair of the **SPIRIT**...

...AND NO TRACE OF THE ESCAPED CRIMINAL OR HIS ASSISTANT HAS BEEN FOUND! POLICE LOOK FOR A STROKE OF VENGEANCE FROM THIS VINDICTIVE HOODLUM **DENZIL**!

WHAT'S THAT, EBONY? **DENZIL** OUT OF PRISON?

AT LEAST AH'S IN THE CLEAH, MIST' **SPIRIT** BOSS! ... I DIDN'T HELP YOU CAPTURE HIM!

NO, MY HELPER WAS **ELLEN DOLAN**!

At the Dolan home...

AND NOW, A NEWS FLASH FROM THE STATE PRISON: A DARING ESCAPE --

SOMEONE AT THE DOOR! **COME IN!**

MISS **DOLAN** --- I HAVE AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE THAT MAY MEAN A LOT TO YOUR FUTURE --

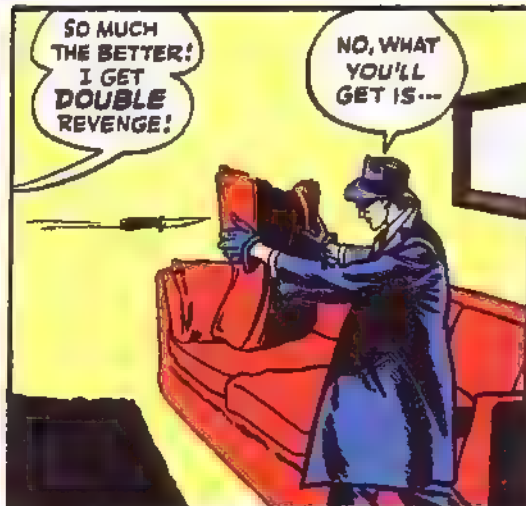
WHAT IS IT? I WAS LISTENING TO THE RADIO, AND ---

--AND NOW THE RUTHLESS **DENZIL** IS AT LARGE!

RIGHT! AND HERE I AM!

YOU MADE A **FOOL** OF ME! YOU HELPED THE **SPIRIT** TRICK ME INTO PRISON!

YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ME?





YANISHED...  
LIKE SOMETHING  
IN A MAGIC  
SHOW!

HE MUST HAVE  
MANY OTHER  
TRICKS, WHICH  
HE'LL USE IN HIS  
REVENGE PLOT!  
WHAT SHALL  
WE DO?



ONLY ONE THING  
TO DO, ELLEN!  
DRAW HIM INTO  
THE OPEN-- WITH  
OURSELVES  
AS BAIT!



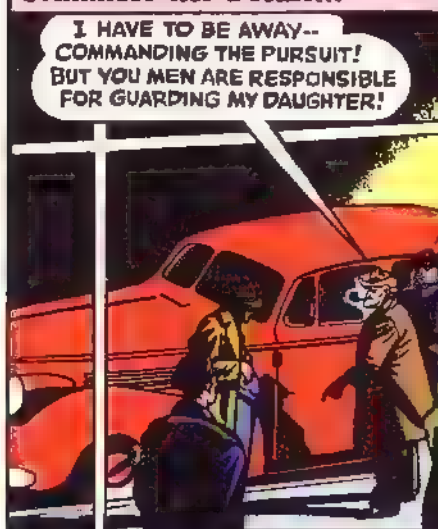
I DON'T  
KNOW--MAYBE  
YOU DO...



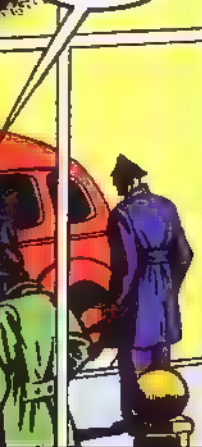
NO, I DON'T--YET!  
AND I WONDER HOW  
MUCH TIME HE'LL GIVE  
US TO PLAN OUR  
OWN SLEIGHT-  
OF-HAND!



When the news reaches Police  
Commissioner Dolan...



YESSIR!

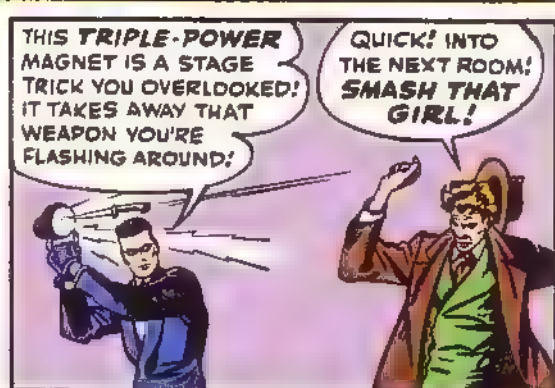
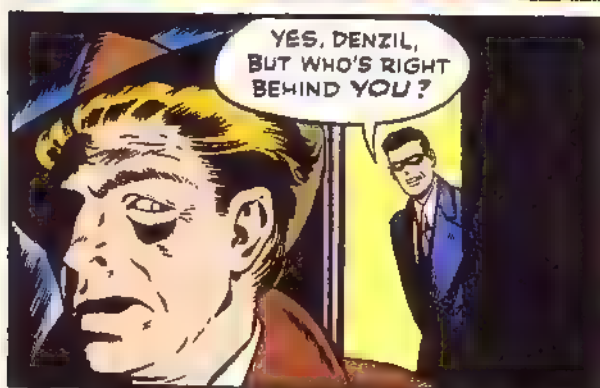
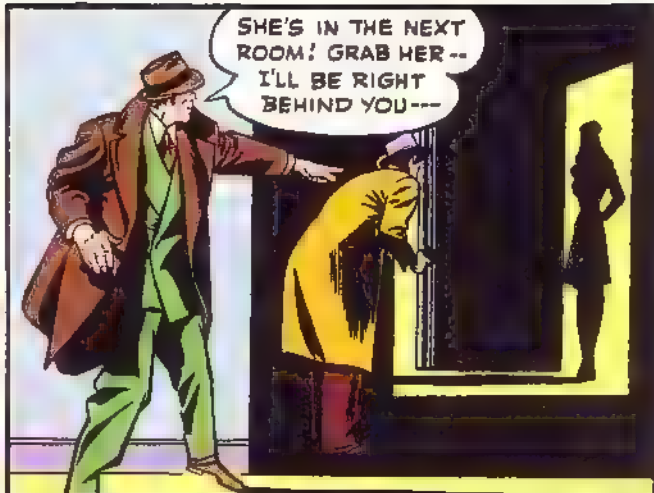


Night comes....



ONLY A  
LIGHT FOR  
MY PIPE,  
OFFICER!









March 18 1945

THE  
**SPRIT**  
EARLY EDITION

PROMINENT EXECUTIVES VANISH

Thomas Decker and Joseph Walsh were reported to have completely disappeared after having kept a late appointment at the Hotel Grant. Authorities are mystified and refuse to comment on the strange circumstances surrounding the case. In private interviews the wives of the mis-

THOMAS DECKER

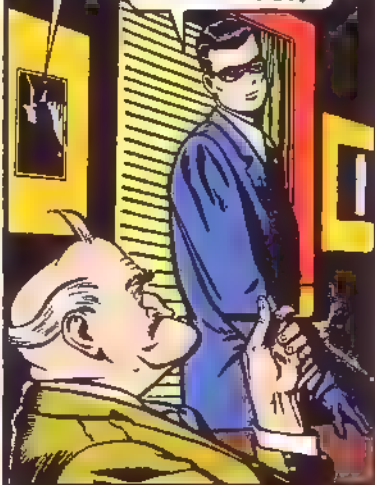
JOSEPH WALSH

WASHIN  
REPORT

MAJOR SAYS  
BELIEVED

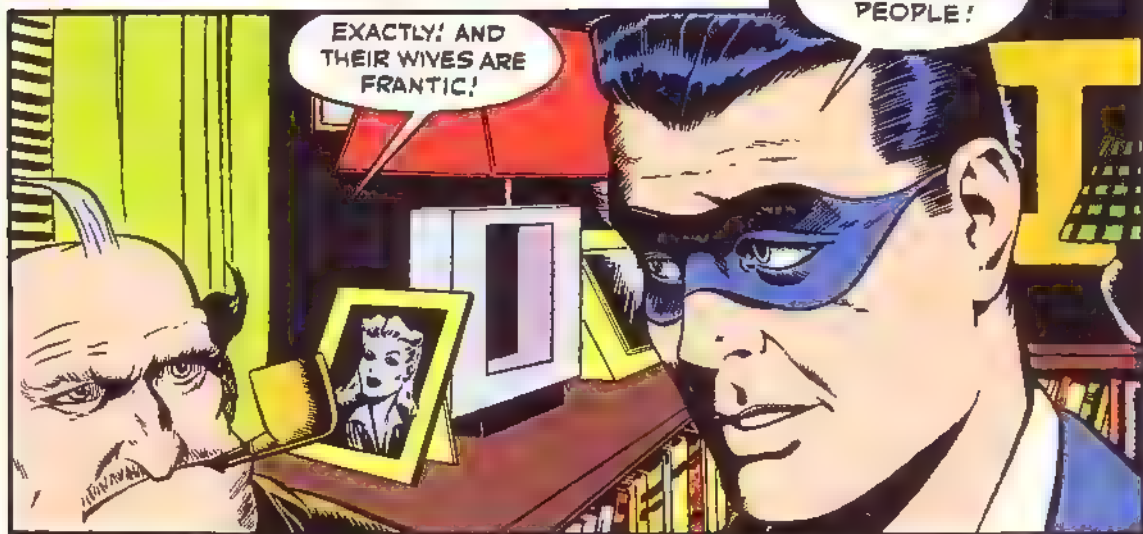
WE KNOW THEY WERE BOTH GAMBLING AND WE KNOW THAT THEY WERE BOTH LAST SEEN IN THE HOTEL GRANT!

AND NOW YOU CAN'T FIND THEM AND YOU THINK THEY'VE BEEN RUBBED OUT!

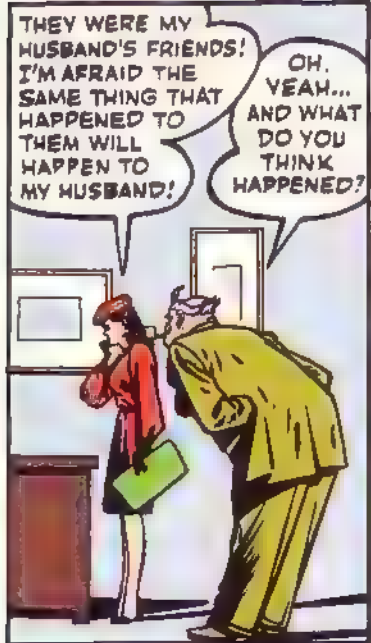
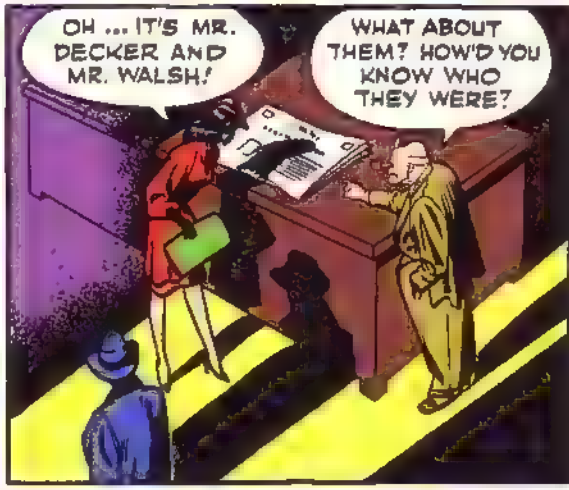
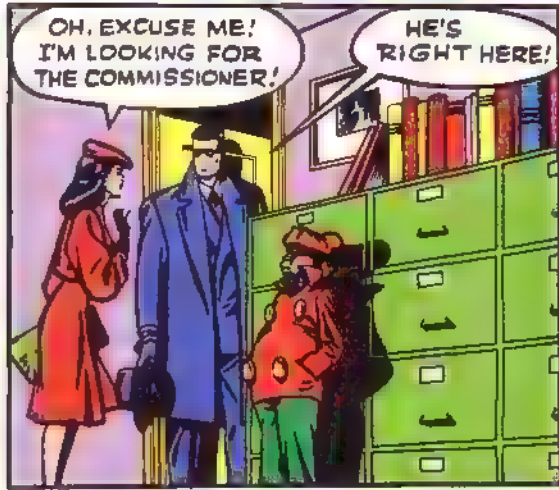


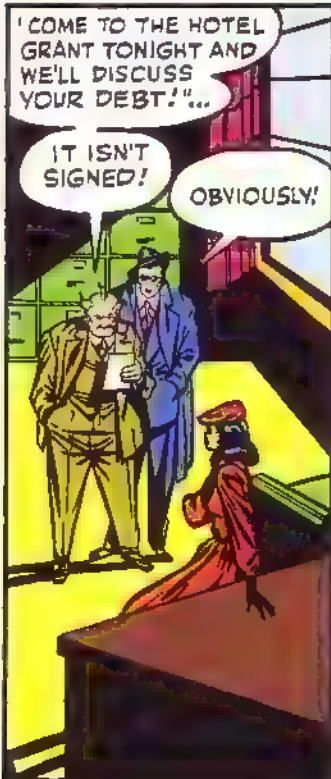
I SUPPOSE YOU CHECKED WITH THE HOTEL PEOPLE!

EXACTLY! AND THEIR WIVES ARE FRANTIC!

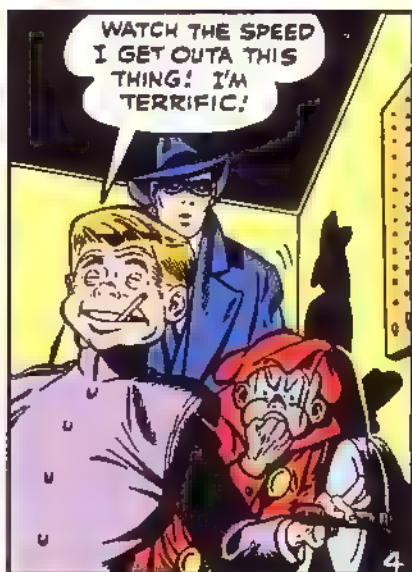
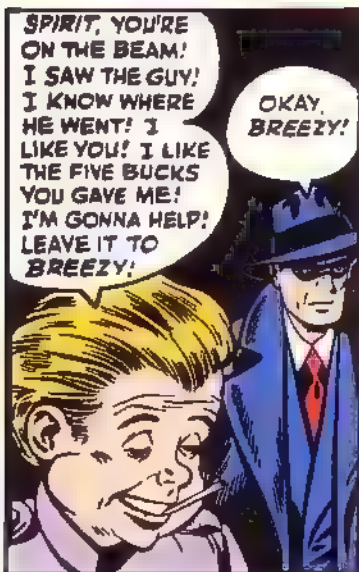
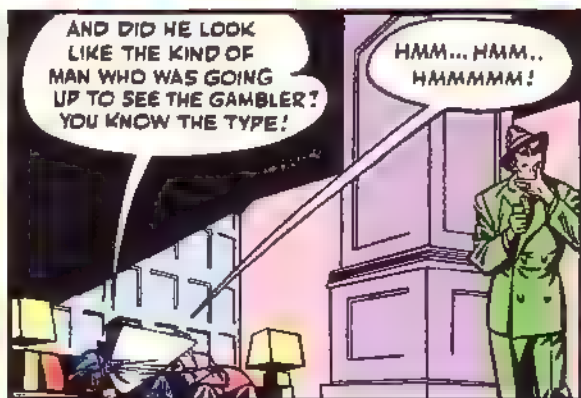
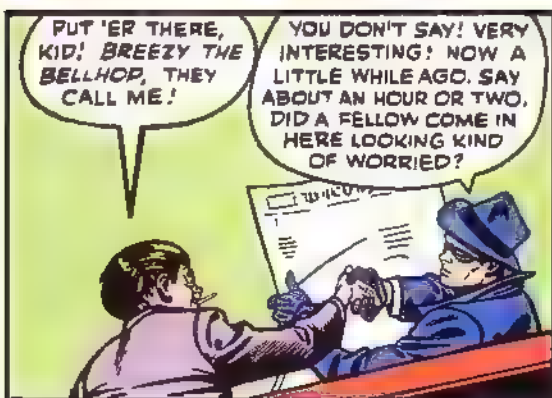
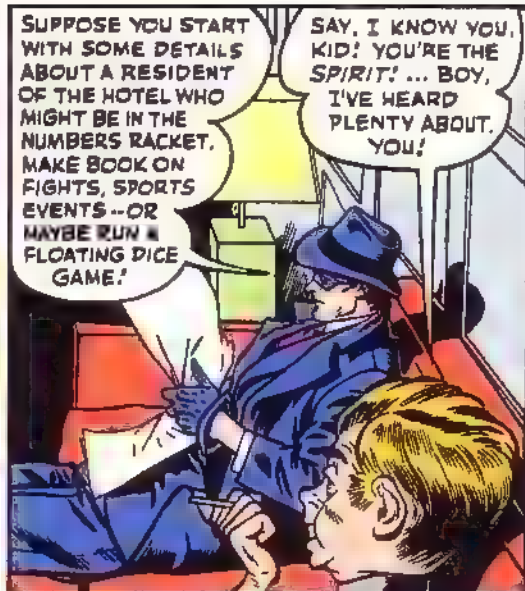
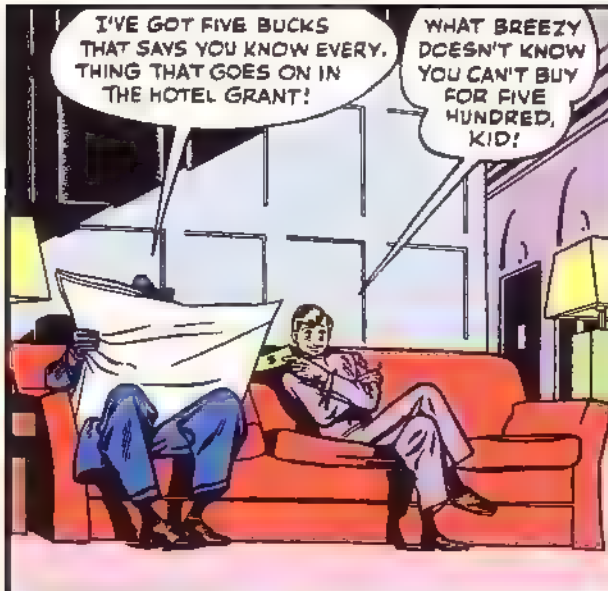








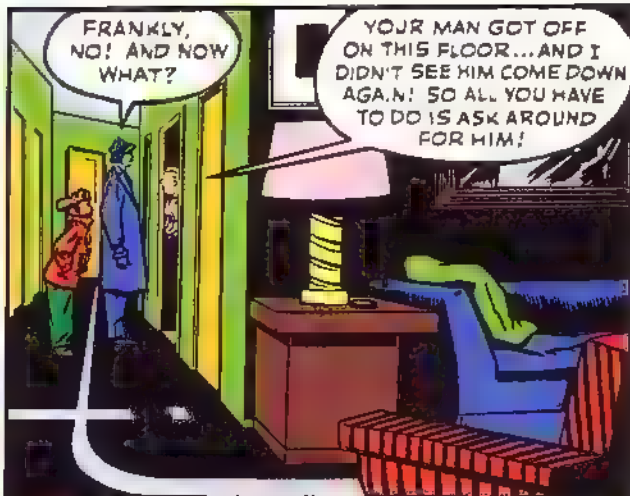






YAWP! HEY,  
YO LEFT MAH  
STOMACH  
DOWNSTARS!

THAT'S WHAT THEY  
ALL SAY! I JUST  
KILL EM WITH TH S  
ELEVATOR! EVER  
SEE A STOP LIKE  
THAT?



FRANKLY,  
NO! AND NOW  
WHAT?

YOUR MAN GOT OFF  
ON THIS FLOOR...AND I  
DIDN'T SEE HIM COME DOWN  
AGAIN! SO ALL YOU HAVE  
TO DO IS ASK AROUND  
FOR HIM!



YOU SURELY  
MAKE IT SOUND  
SIMPLE!

ALWAYS TRYNG TO  
HELP OUT! ALWAYS  
TRYING TO MAKE  
THINGS EAS ER  
FOR PEOPLE!



IT'LL TAKE LESS TIME  
IF YOU TRY SOME OF THE  
ROOMS AND I TRY OTHERS!  
ASK FOR MR. CHARTERS!

RIGHT,  
MIST'  
SPIRIT  
BOSS!



DOESN'T  
SEEM TO BE  
ANYBODY  
IN THERE!

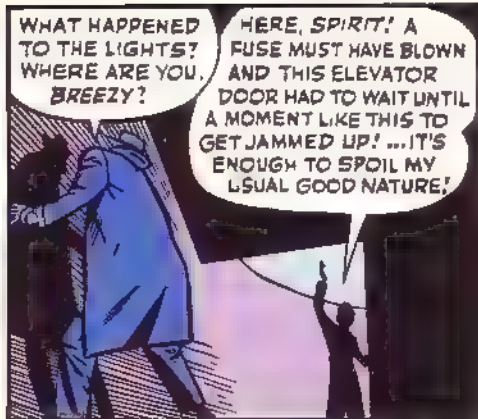


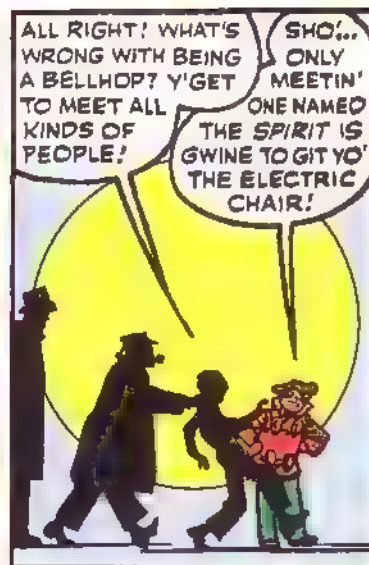
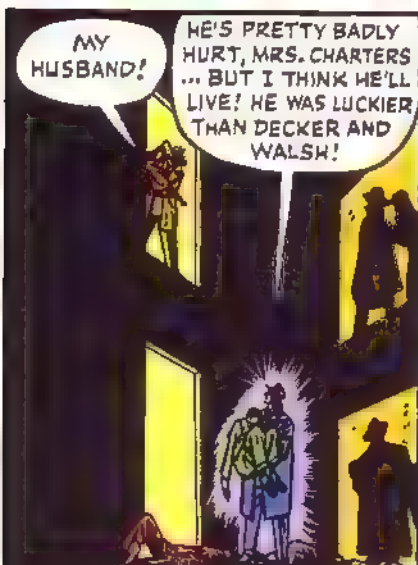
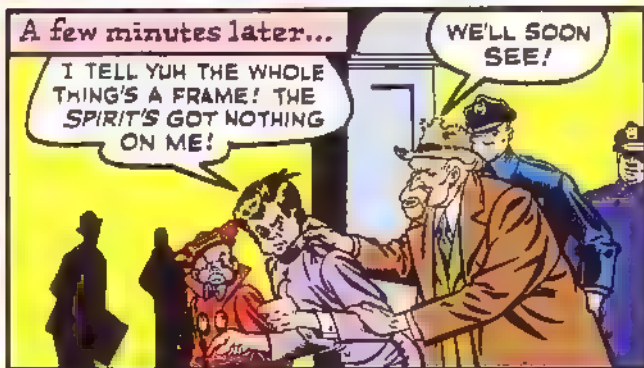
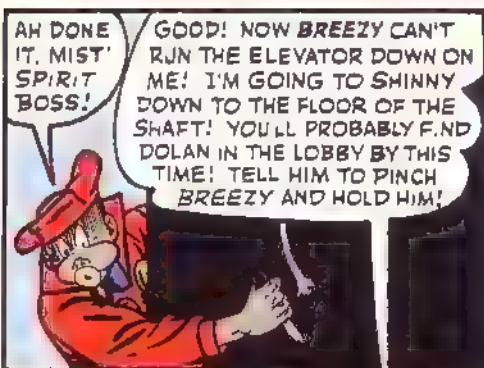
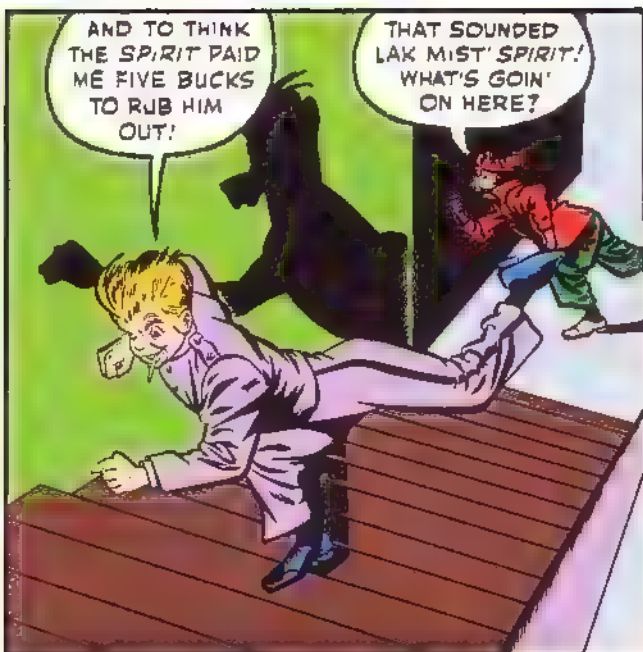
ANOTHER EMPTY  
ONE! I WONDER HOW  
EBONY'S DOING!



UH-OH!... THE  
LIGHTS ARE  
OUT!

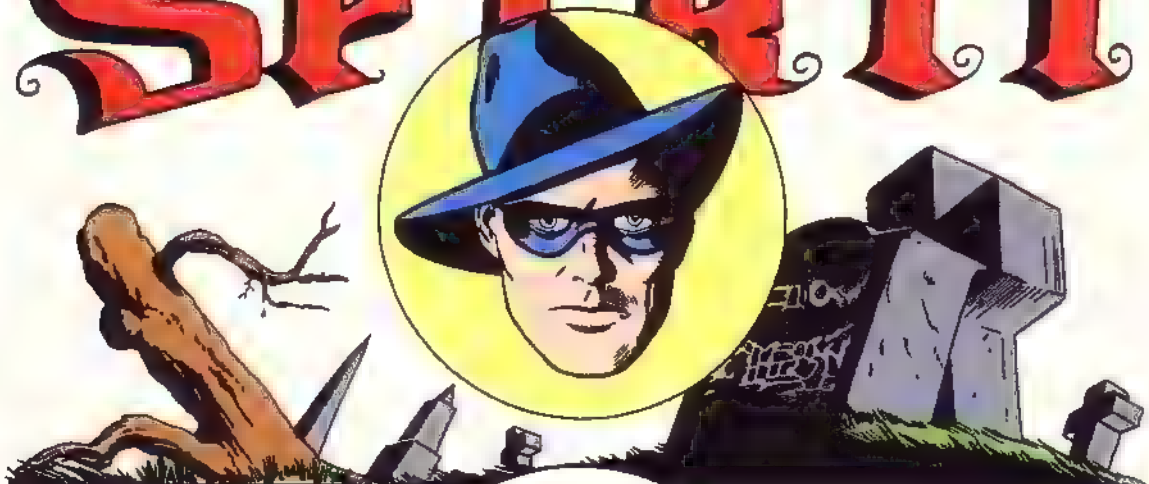








# THE SPIRIT



We are privileged to observe a meeting of distinguished officials....

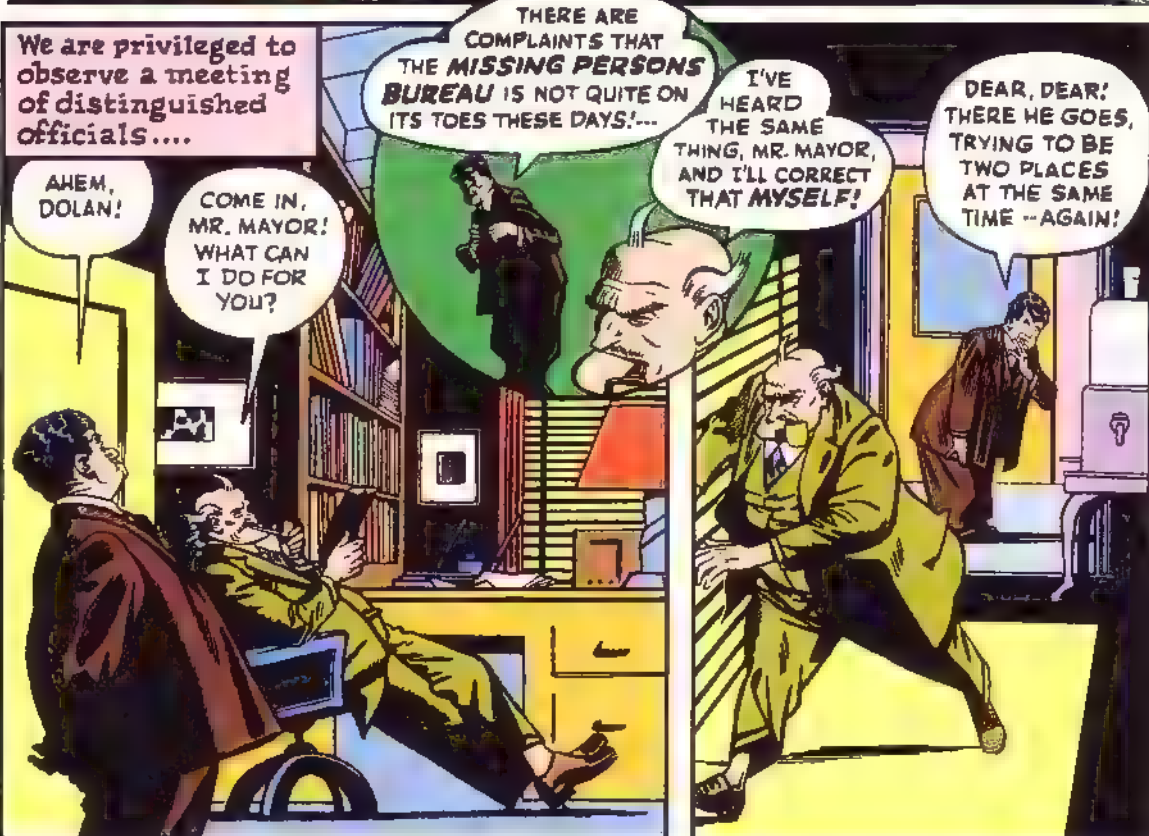
AHEM, DOLAN!

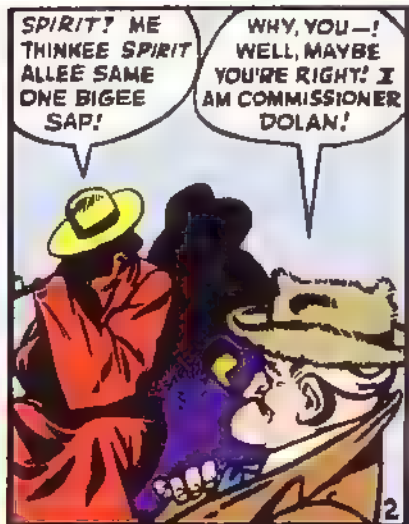
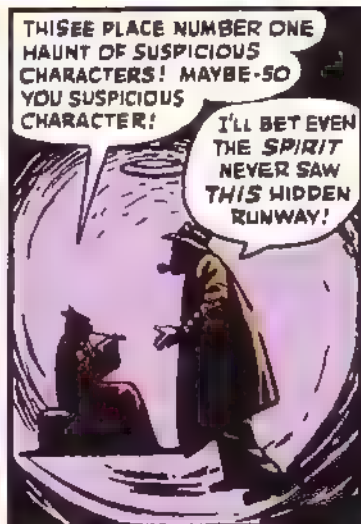
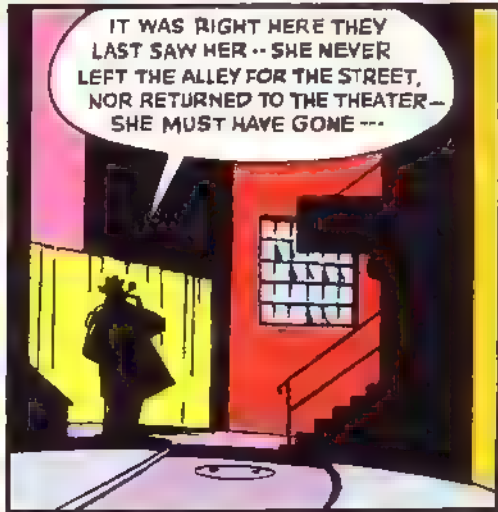
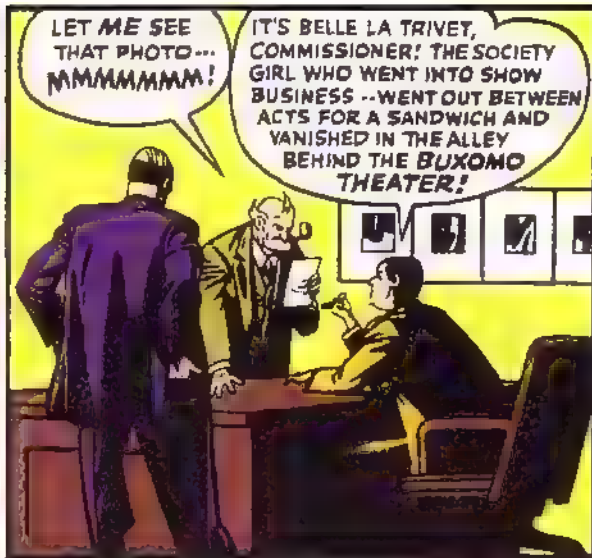
COME IN, MR. MAYOR! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

THERE ARE COMPLAINTS THAT THE MISSING PERSONS BUREAU IS NOT QUITE ON ITS TOES THESE DAYS!...

I'VE HEARD THE SAME THING, MR. MAYOR, AND I'LL CORRECT THAT MYSELF!

DEAR, DEAR! THERE HE GOES, TRYING TO BE TWO PLACES AT THE SAME TIME --AGAIN!









YA HOLA! COMMISSIONER DOLAN LIKEWISE BIGEE SAP!

I'LL TEACH YOU A LESSON, YOU SNEERING ORIENTAL!



YOU!.. IT'S THE SPIRIT!

I HEARD YOU WERE TAKING THIS CASE, DOLAN-- THOUGHT I'D JOIN YOU!



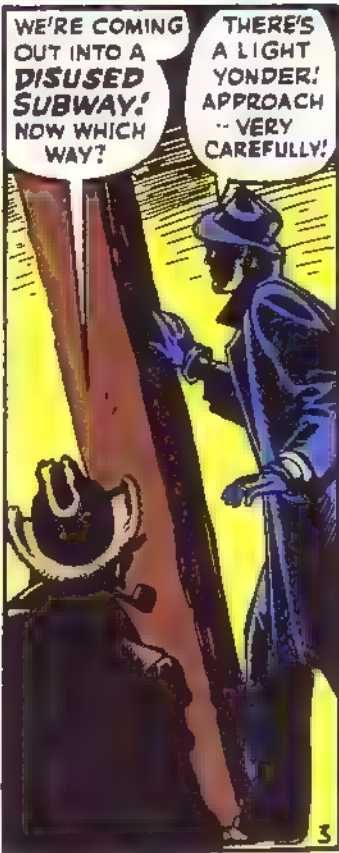
BUT THIS COSTUME! DID IT BELONG TO SOME CRIMINAL?

I FOUND IT HERE!.. SO FAR AS I CAN LEARN, IT WAS WHAT BELLE LA TRIVET WORE IN THE SHOW SHE LEFT!



WHERE DID SHE GO AFTER SHEDDING IT HERE?

I JUDGE THESE ARE HER TRACKS IN THE SOFT SOIL OF THE PASSAGE!



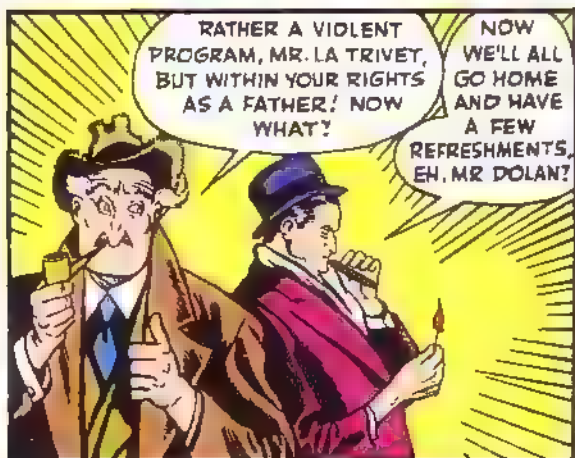
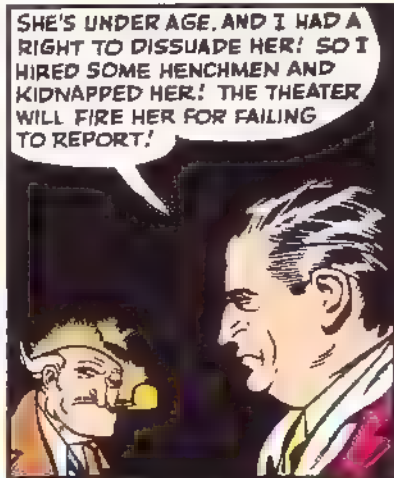
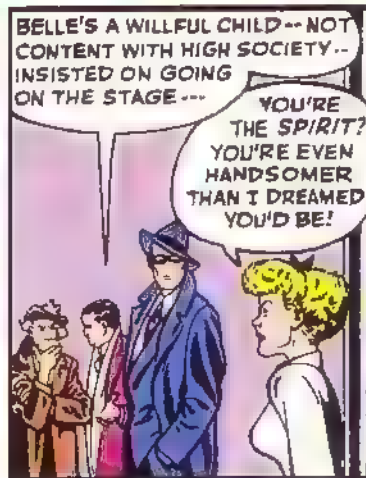
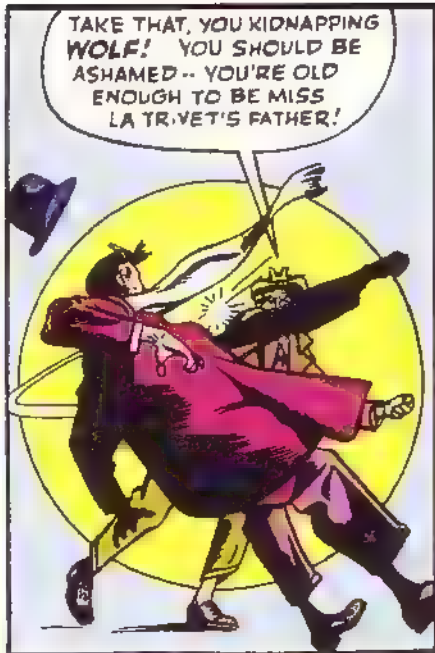
WE'RE COMING OUT INTO A **DISUSED SUBWAY!** NOW WHICH WAY?

THERE'S A LIGHT YONDER! APPROACH -- VERY CAREFULLY!

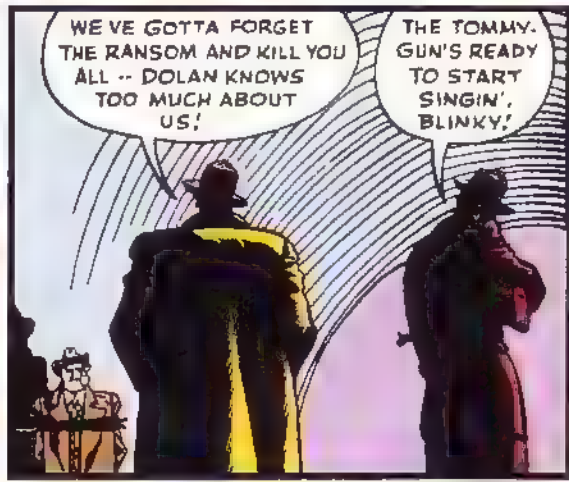
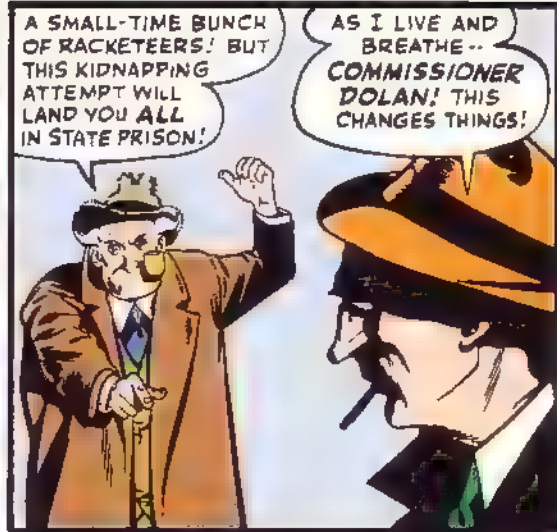


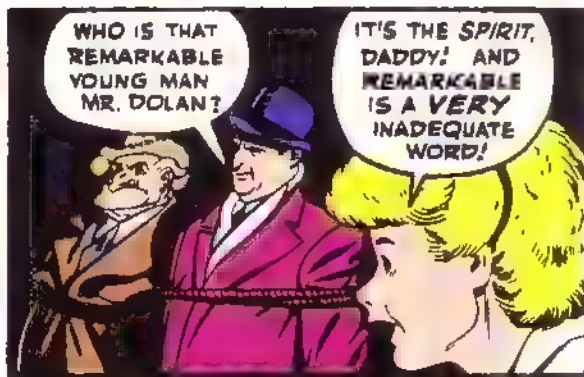
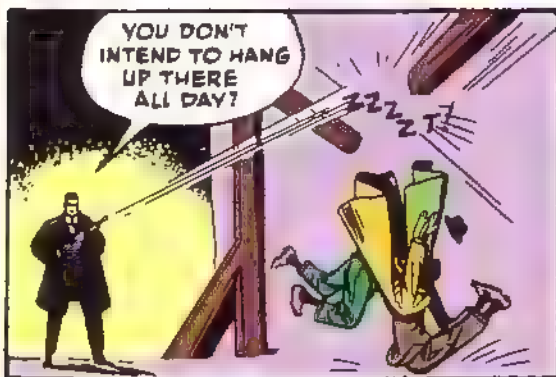
HERE'S THE MONEY, BOYS! NOW LEAVE ME ALONE WITH HER!

HEAR THAT, SPIRIT? THOSE FIENDS MUST BE PLANNING SOMETHING AWFUL!

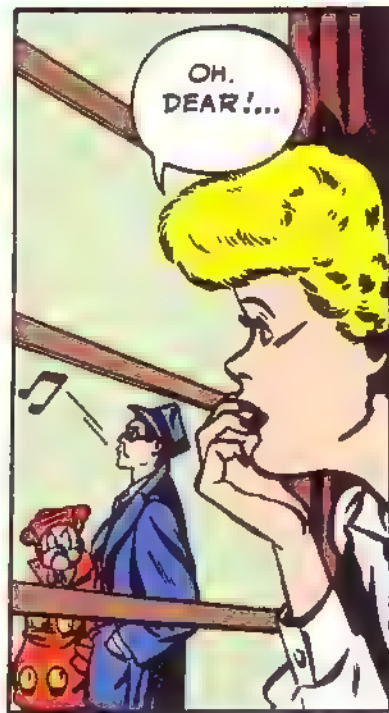
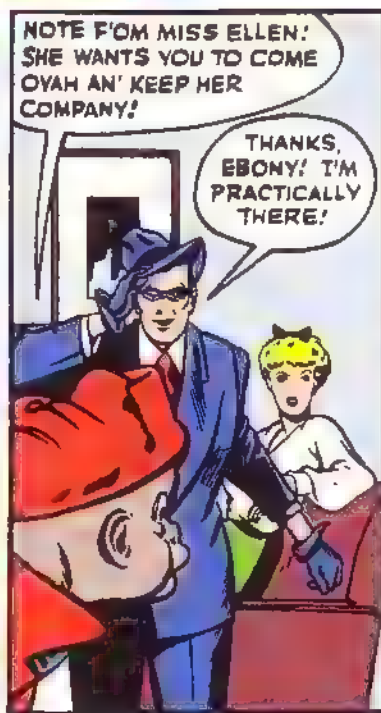
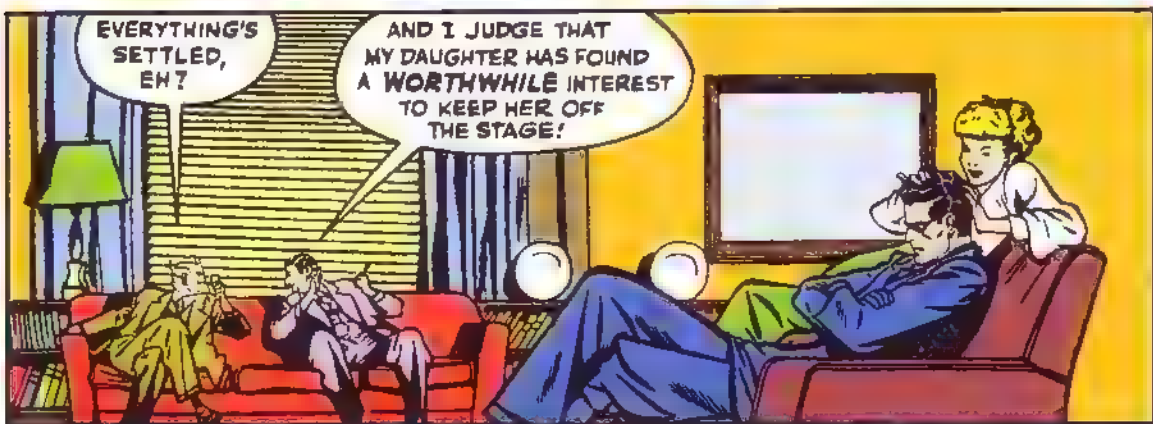
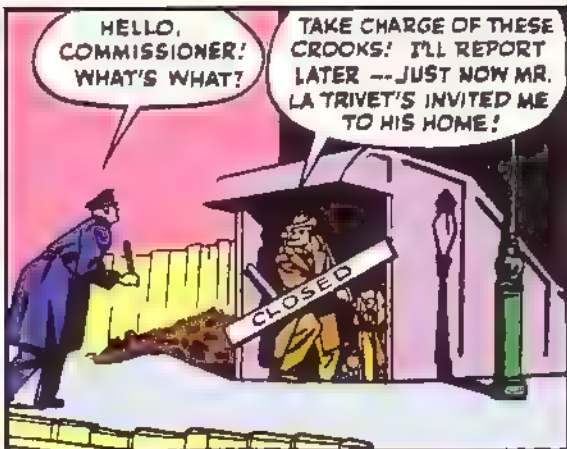
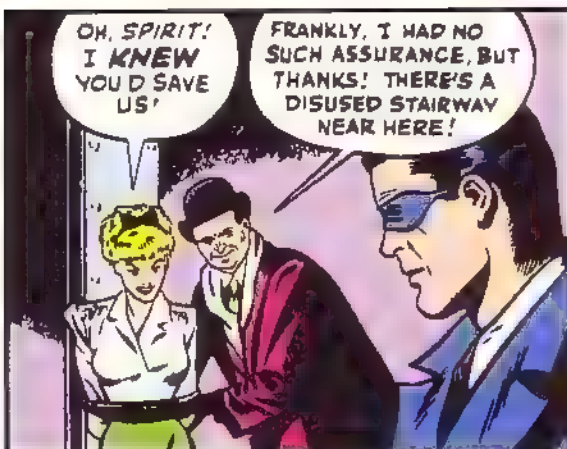












COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

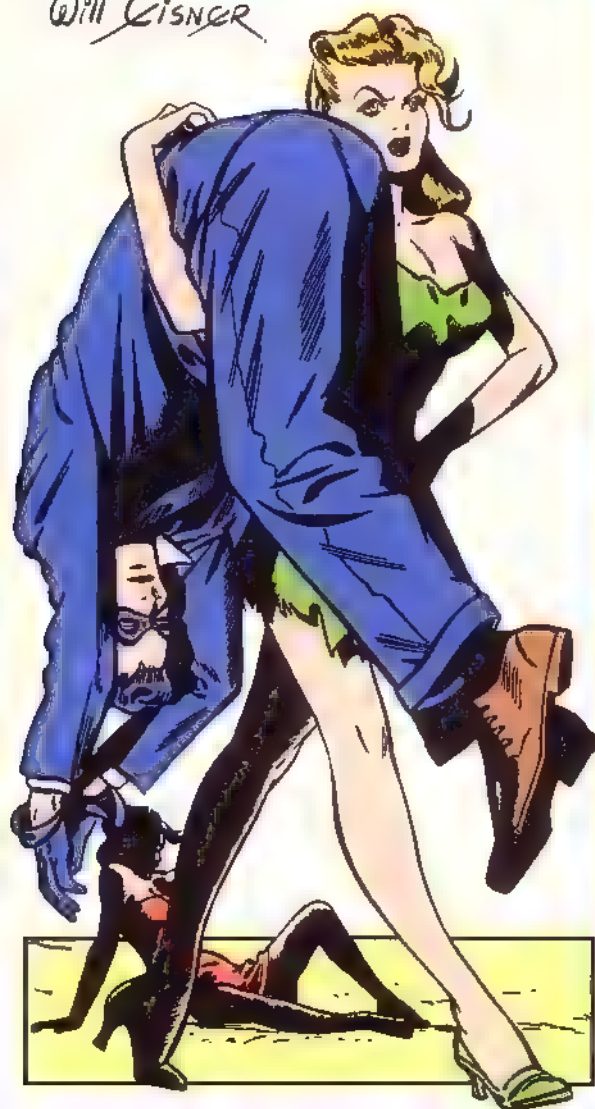
BEAUTIFUL ANDREW

April 1 1945

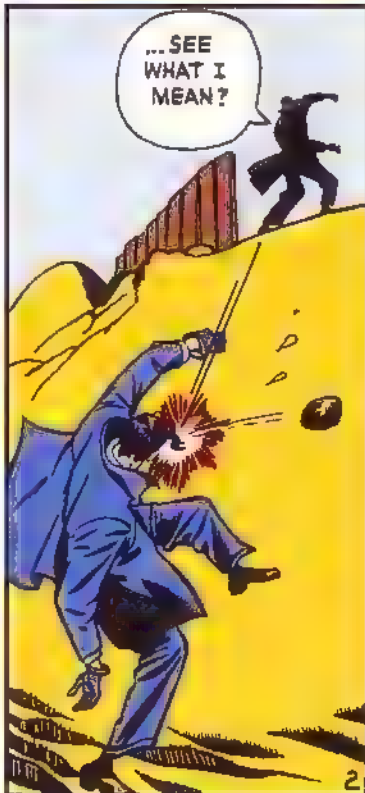
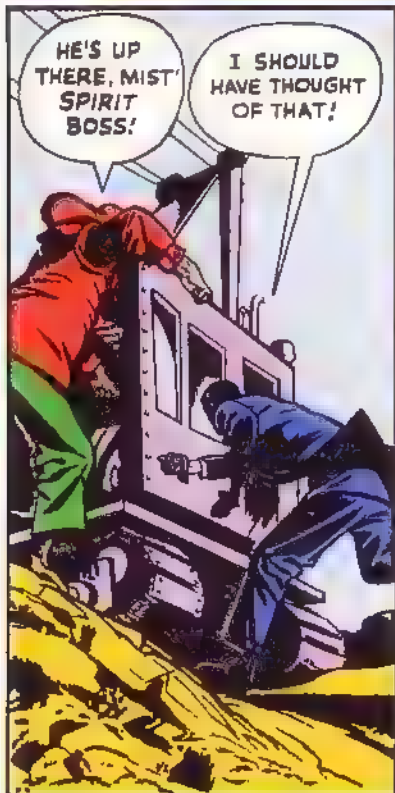
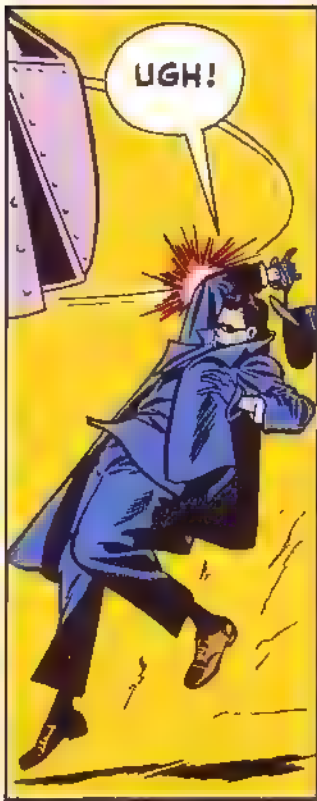
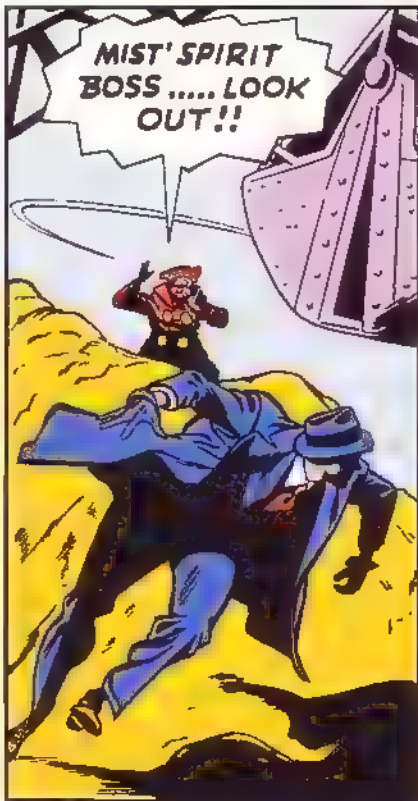
ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

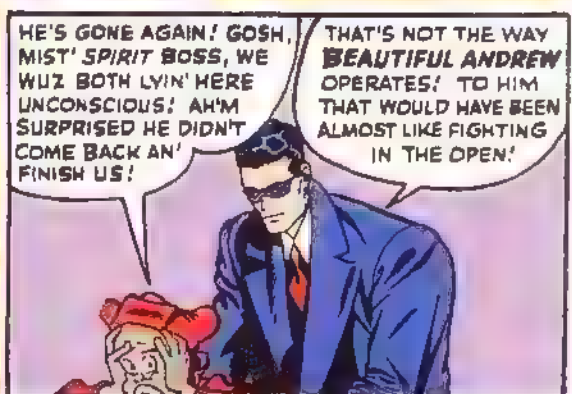
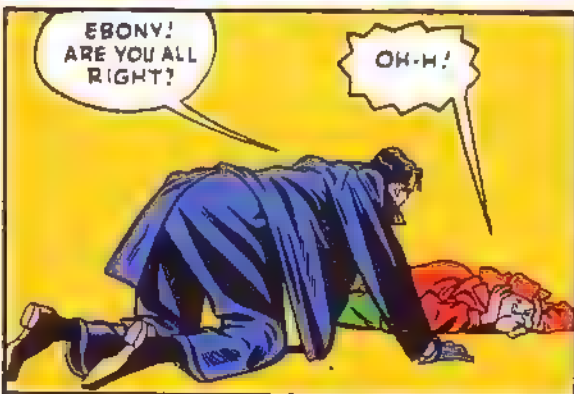
# THE Spirit

by  
Will Eisner











At Commissioner Dolan's house...

MAY I  
COME IN,  
PLEASE?

WHY...ER...  
YES! ...OF  
COURSE!

I'VE SEEN THE SPIRIT  
COME HERE! HE'S THE  
ONLY ONE WHO CAN  
HELP ME! YOU MUST  
SEND HIM TO ME!  
PLEASE!

YOU'VE SEEN  
HIM COME  
HERE? BUT  
HOW? NOBODY  
BUT DADDY  
AND I...

I CAN'T EXPLAIN  
NOW! MY LIFE'S IN  
DANGER! TELL HIM  
BEAUTIFUL ANDREW  
HAS THREATENED  
TO KILL ME!

BUT WHY NOT THE  
POLICE? YOU COULD  
GO TO THEM! I'LL  
CALL MY FATHER! HE'S  
STILL AT HEADQUARTERS!

NO! THE POLICE  
WOULD BE HELPLESS!  
MY FATE IS IN YOUR HANDS!  
YOU MUST TELL THE  
SPIRIT!

SPIRIT! YOU  
LOOK WORN OUT!  
BUT I SUPPOSE  
YOU'LL SNAP BACK  
TO LIFE AS SOON  
AS I TELL YOU THAT  
A GLAMOROUS  
LADY IN A VEIL  
IS LOOKING  
FOR YOU!

A LADY  
IN A  
VEIL?

THIS IS HER ADDRESS!  
SHE SAID SOMEBODY  
CALLED BEAUTIFUL  
ANDREW HAS  
THREATENED  
TO KILL HER!

BEAUTIFUL  
ANDREW! SO  
HE'S ABOUT TO  
COMMIT MURDER  
NUMBER  
THREE!

YOU STAY HERE  
THIS TIME, EBONY!  
YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH!  
WHAT DID THIS GAL  
LOOK LIKE,  
ELLEN?

SHE  
WAS QUITE  
LOVELY!

HMMM! WELL.  
SEE YOU LATER!

JUST AS I THOUGHT! THE  
FATIGUE WENT RIGHT OUT OF  
HIM AS SOON AS HE HEARD  
SHE WAS NICE TO LOOK AT!

MO' LIKELY HE WAS  
INT'RESTED IN GITTIN'  
AT BEAUTIFUL ANDREW  
AGAIN, MISS ELLEN!

MAYBE! BUT NOW I THINK OF  
IT, HOW DO I KNOW THAT  
WOMAN DIDN'T DREAM UP A  
STORY SO SHE COULD MAKE  
A PLAY FOR THE SPIRIT? SHE  
CERTAINLY LOOKED THE TYPE!  
AND SHE'D BEEN FOLLOWING  
HIM LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW  
THAT HE COMES HERE!

WHERE  
YOU GOIN',  
MISS ELLEN?

I'M GOING TO KEEP  
AN EYE ON THE SPIRIT  
JUST IN CASE HE  
PROVES TOO  
SUSCEPTIBLE!

YOU WANTED  
TO SEE  
ME?

OH... YOU'VE COME!  
I LEFT MY HAT AND VEIL  
ON SO THAT I COULD  
GO OUT AGAIN! I'M  
SO AFRAID TO  
STAY HERE!

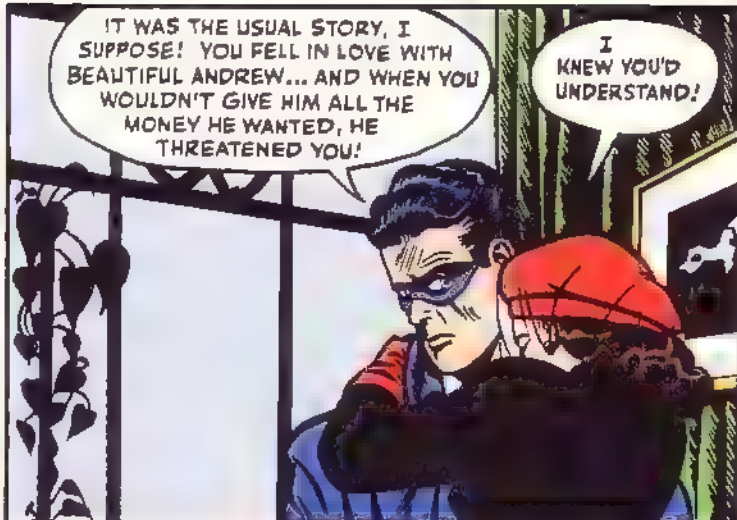
YOU DON'T KNOW  
WHAT TERROR MEANS  
UNTIL YOU'VE BEEN  
THREATENED THE  
WAY I HAVE!  
= SNIFF! =

= SNIFF! =  
IT'S BEEN  
HORRIBLE!



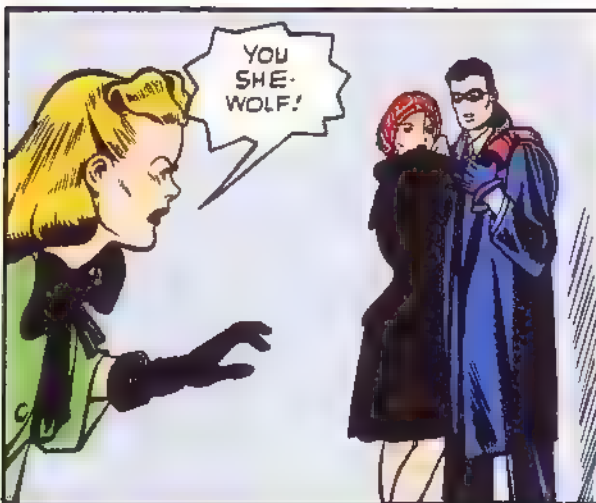


JUST AS I THOUGHT!  
SHE WAS AFTER THE SPIRIT!  
AND HE ... HE ...  
THE BEAST!

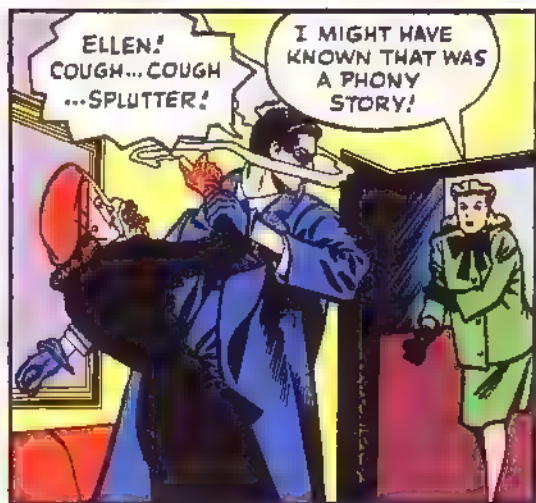


IT WAS THE USUAL STORY, I  
SUPPOSE! YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH  
BEAUTIFUL ANDREW... AND WHEN YOU  
WOULDN'T GIVE HIM ALL THE  
MONEY HE WANTED, HE  
THREATENED YOU!

I  
KNEW YOU'D  
UNDERSTAND!

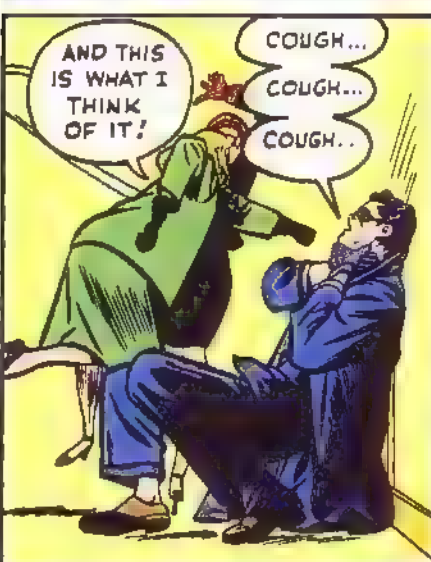


YOU  
SHE-  
WOLF!



ELLEN!  
COUGH... COUGH  
... SPLUTTER!

I MIGHT HAVE  
KNOWN THAT WAS  
A PHONY  
STORY!



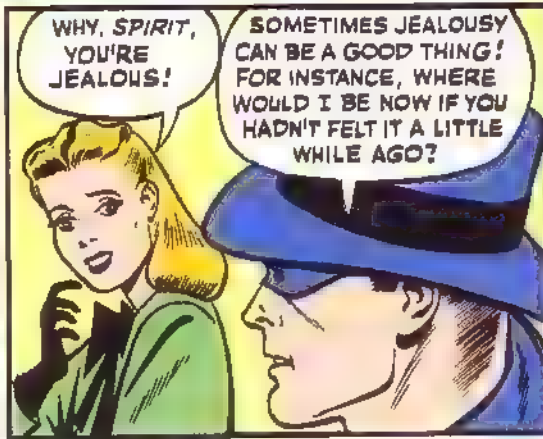
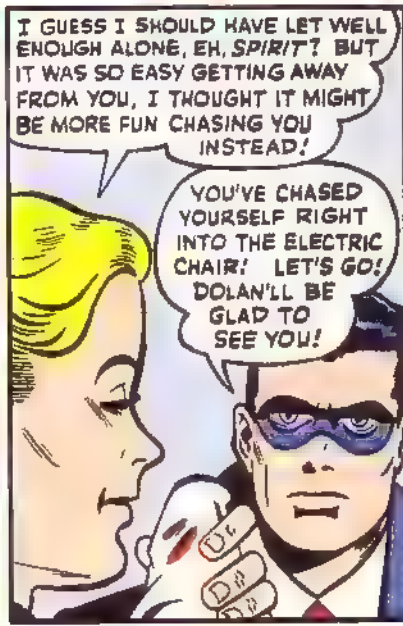
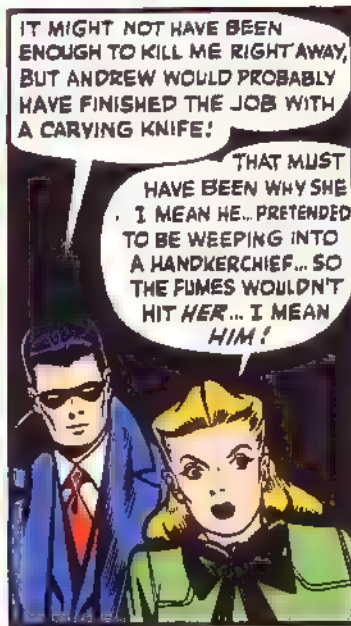
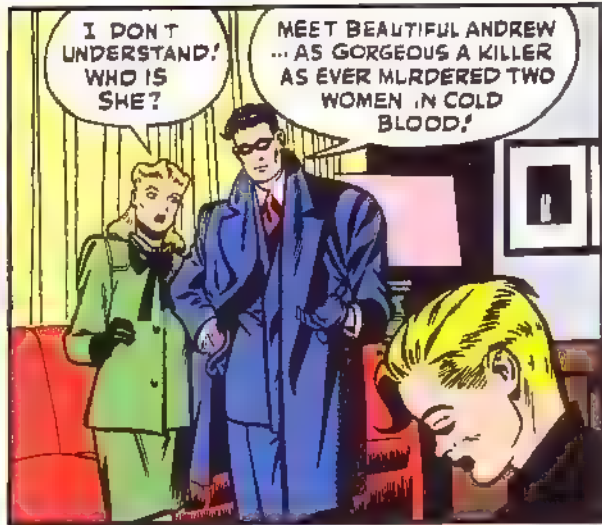
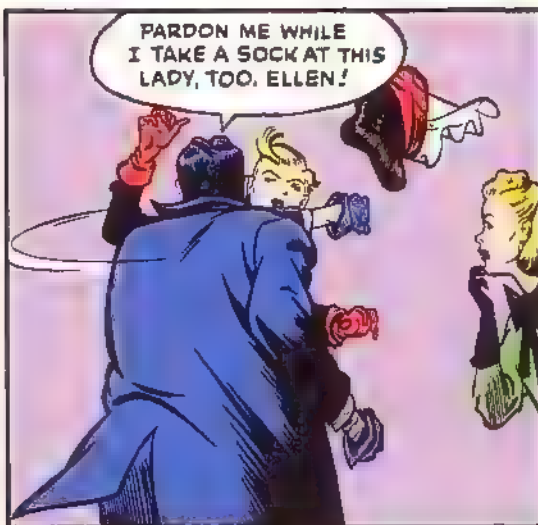
AND THIS  
IS WHAT I  
THINK OF  
IT!

COUGH...  
COUGH...  
COUGH...



YOU  
ASKED FOR  
THIS!

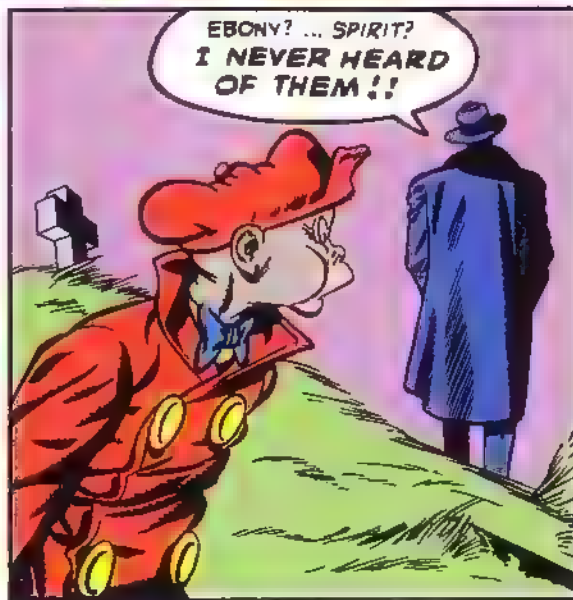
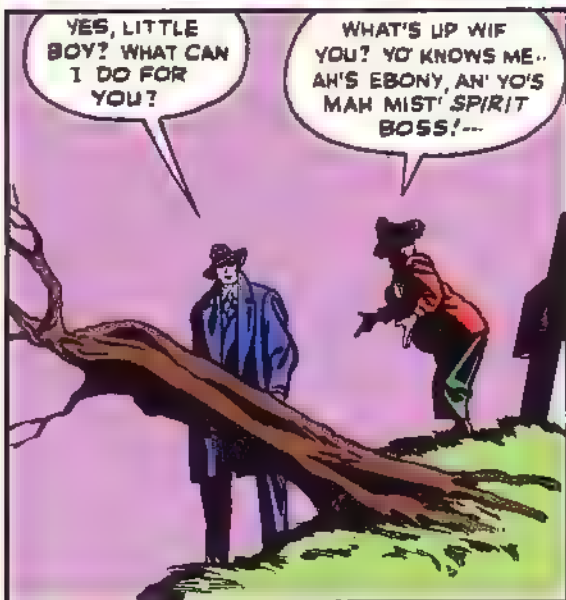
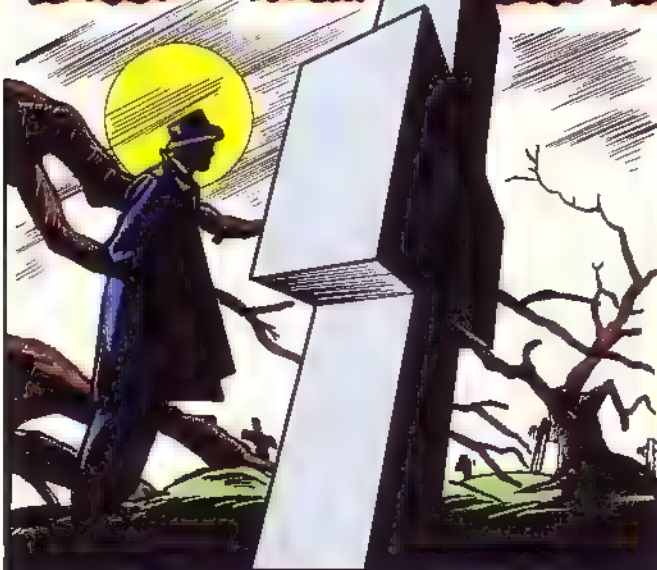
HER VOICE IS  
CHANGING! WH-WHY...  
THAT VOICE IS .....!  
HOLY HANNAH!





April 8 1945

# THE SPIRIT



Then, on the streets  
of Central City...

WHY'N'CHA LOOK  
WHERE YOU'RE GOIN' ?  
WHO DO YA THINK  
YA ARE ?

I  
HAVEN'T  
THE  
SLIGHTEST  
IDEA !

YOU ACT LIKE  
THE CHAMPION  
CHUMP OF  
CENTRAL  
CITY !

CENTRAL  
CITY?...  
WHERE'S  
THAT ?

COME ALONG TO  
THE STATION!  
WE'LL SOON  
LEARN WHAT'S  
WHAT!

I  
WISH WE  
COULD!

THAT'S RIGHT,  
SARGE! HE ACTS  
LIKE A ZOMBIE! CAN'T  
EVEN TELL ME  
HIS NAME!

I'VE SEEN YOU  
SOMEWHERE! COME  
ON, GIVE WITH  
THE VITAL  
STATISTICS!

I'M SORRY! I REMEMBER  
NOTHING! I FOUND MYSELF  
WALKING THROUGH A GRAVE-  
YARD -- SAW THE CITY AND  
HEADED THAT WAY!....

THIS CASE  
MIGHT INTEREST  
YOU, COMMISSIONER  
DOLAN!

YOU ACT AS  
THOUGH YOU KNEW  
HIM WELL,  
COMMISSIONER!

KNOW ME? IMPOSSIBLE!  
I NEVER SAW HIM  
BEFORE IN ALL MY  
LIFE!

I'LL TAKE  
CHARGE! COME  
INTO MY PRIVATE  
OFFICE, YOU!

PRIVATE OFFICE?  
YOU HAVE A PRIVATE  
OFFICE? WHO ARE  
YOU?



NOW, SPIRIT, SPEAK UP!  
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA? YOU  
KNOW YOU'RE TECHNICALLY  
AN OUTLAW--SHOULDN'T  
SHOW YOURSELF TO  
MY SUBORDINATES--

NO, YOU  
EXPLAIN!  
I CAN'T!



I DON'T KNOW YOUR NAME--  
MY NAME--**ANYBODY'S**  
NAME! BUT IF I'M AN  
OUTLAW, SHOULDN'T  
I BE IN JAIL?

YIKE!  
... HE'S  
LOST HIS  
MEMORY!



I MIGHT HAVE **KNOWN** YOU'D  
BREAK DOWN FROM OVERWORK!  
COME WITH ME!--I KNOW  
JUST THE MAN TO  
HELP YOU!

I HOPE SO!  
BECAUSE I  
DON'T KNOW  
ANYTHING!



At the office of Dr. Zyburg,  
Central City's best-known  
brain specialist, Dolan  
demands an audience....

... AND SO, BECAUSE  
YOU AND I ARE FAST  
FRIENDS, I HOPED  
YOU'D TRY TO  
CURE HIM!

IT'S  
**AMNESIA**--  
NOT AN  
UNCOMMON  
AILMENT! LEAVE  
THE YOUNG  
MAN ALONE  
WITH ME!



YOU SEEM TO BE A SPLENDID  
SPECIMEN--IN ALL BUT  
**MIND!** CAN'T YOU  
REMEMBER  
**ANYTHING**  
ABOUT YOUR  
PAST?

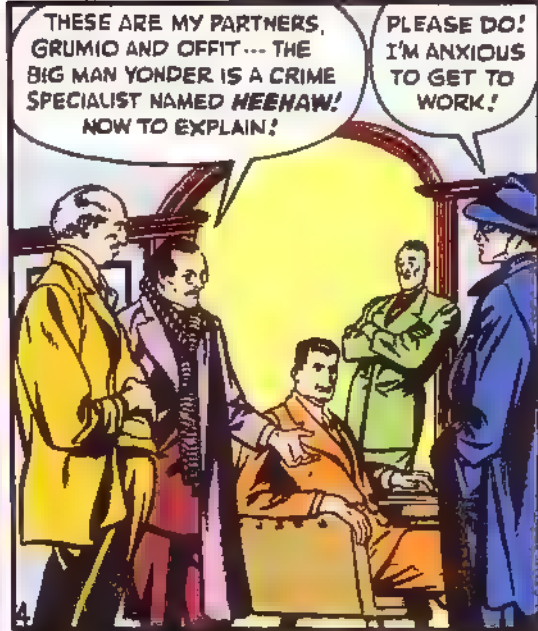
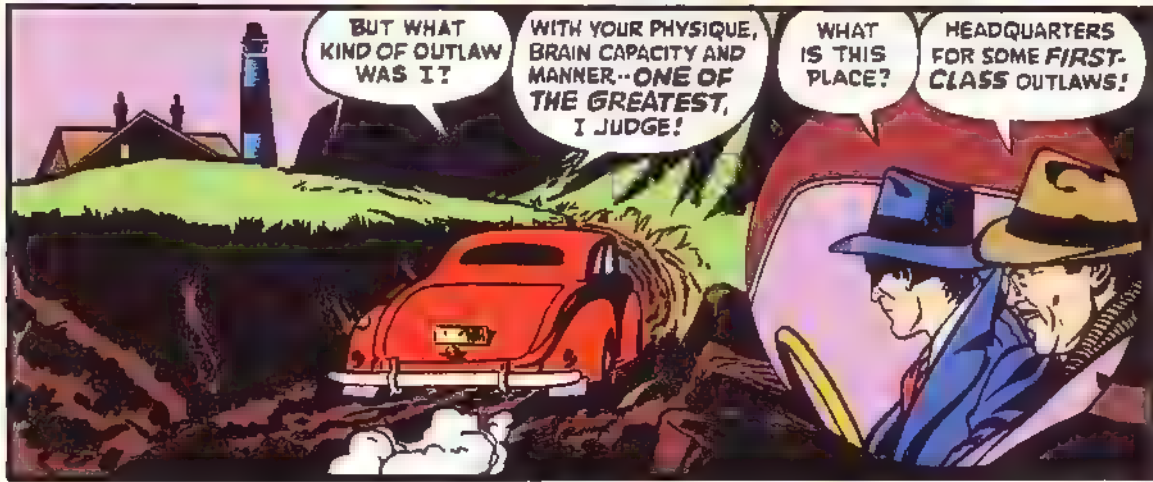
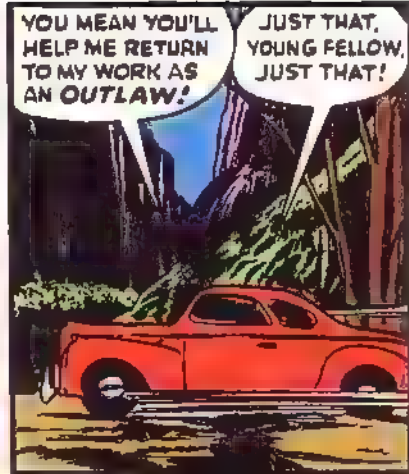
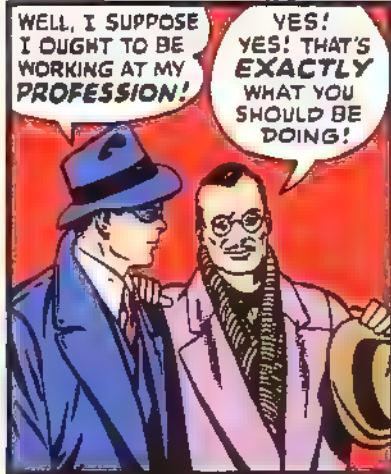
NOTHING!  
THAT ODD--  
LOOKING MAN  
WHO BROUGHT  
ME HERE SAID  
I WAS AN  
**OUTLAW--**



OUTLAW-- THAT MEANS  
**ROBBER--KILLER--**  
**CRIMINAL!**  
DOESN'T IT?

IT DOES,  
INDEED!









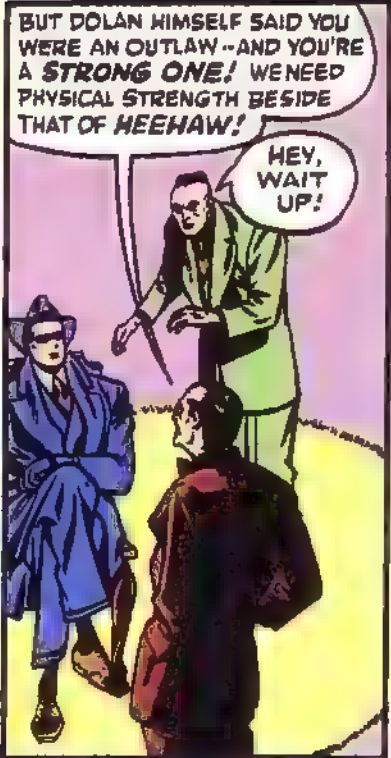
YOU SEE, MY BOY, WE RECENTLY DECIDED THAT CRIME **WOULD** PAY, IF THE RIGHT PEOPLE TOOK IT UP!

AND WE'RE THE RIGHT PEOPLE! OFFIT, DR. ZYBURG AND ME ---



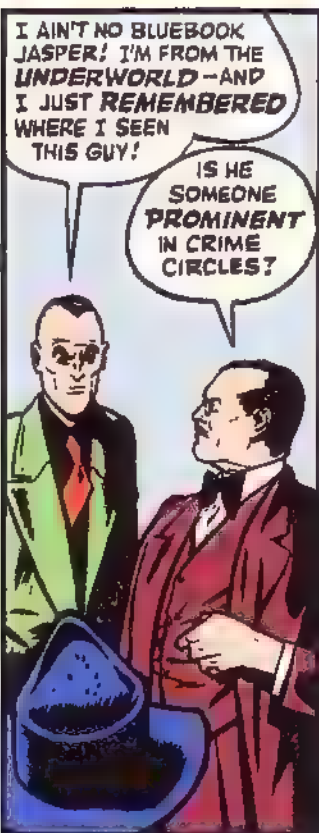
WE'RE IN HIGH SOCIAL STANDING! WE CAN PLAN ROBBERIES, KIDNAPPINGS, BLACKMAILINGS --AMONG OUR OWN FRIENDS!... MAKE A **FORTUNE!**

BUT WHY BE SO KIND TO ME? ... I DON'T EVEN KNOW MY NAME!



BUT DOLAN HIMSELF SAID YOU WERE AN OUTLAW --AND YOU'RE A **STRONG ONE!** WE NEED PHYSICAL STRENGTH BESIDE THAT OF **HEEHAW!**

HEY, WAIT UP!



I AIN'T NO BLUEBOOK JASPER! I'M FROM THE **UNDERWORLD** --AND I JUST REMEMBERED WHERE I SEEN THIS GUY!

IS HE SOMEONE **PROMINENT** IN CRIME CIRCLES?

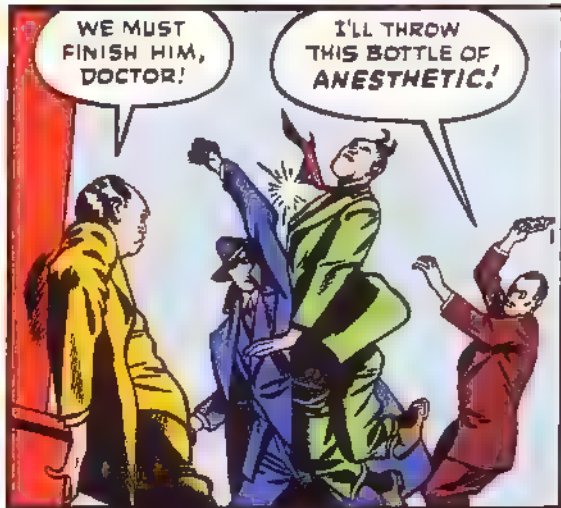


HE SURE IS -- ON THE **WRONG SIDE!** ... HE'S THE **SPIRIT!**

SPIRIT? **BLESS MY SOUL!**



IT'S TRUE! AND THIS RECORDER HAS TAKEN YOUR CONSPIRACY DOWN -- IN YOUR OWN **VOICES!** BETTER SURRENDER RIGHT NOW!





THAT RECORD  
WILL NEVER  
TALK AGAINST  
**US!**

YOU'VE MADE  
A COMMON  
MISTAKE -- YOU  
**UNDERESTIMATE**  
YOUR ENEMY!

OF COURSE,  
I BROUGHT  
ALONG **TWO**  
RECORDERS!

YOU'RE  
A  
**FIEND!**

WHAT'S  
COMING  
OFF  
HERE?

NOTHING! BUT  
SOME **HAND-  
CUFFS** WILL  
GO ON THESE  
CROOKS! CALL  
COMMISSIONER  
DOLAN!

And later, at Dolan's ...

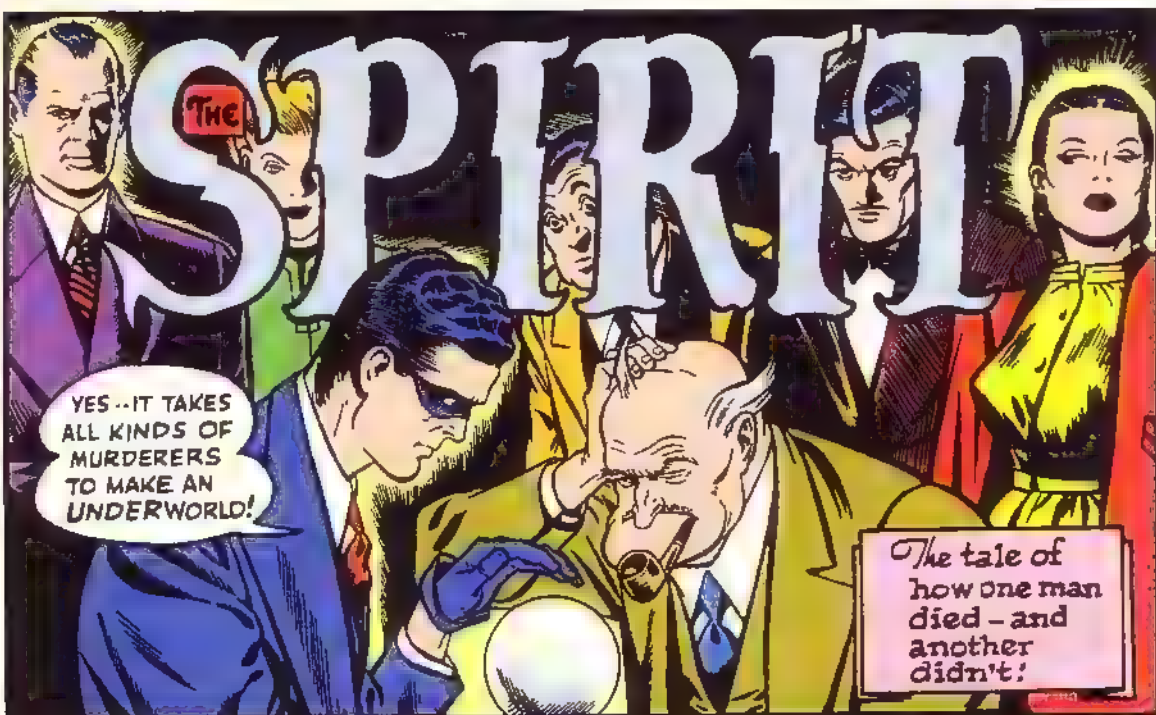
BUT IT'S ALMOST  
UNBELIEVABLE!  
DR. ZYBURG WAS  
MY **FRIEND!**

THAT'S WHY I KNEW YOU'D  
NOT BELIEVE IT, EVEN AFTER  
I HEARD A RUMOR! IT WAS  
UP TO ME TO GET THE  
EVIDENCE ALONE!

SO YOU FAKED  
A LOSS OF MEMORY--  
WOULDN'T **TRUST**  
ME TO HELP!

YOU HELPED! I **KNEW**  
YOU'D TAKE ME TO ZYBURG  
FOR TREATMENT AND  
GIVE ME A CHANCE TO  
FIND THINGS OUT! YOU'RE  
MOST VALUABLE WHEN  
YOU DON'T KNOW **WHAT**  
YOU'RE DOING!

**NUTS**  
TO YOU!!



One bright, crisp morning, Bond Bratton, investment swindler, was found dead in his parlor....

NOT A CLUE! AND IT MIGHTA BEEN ANY ONE OF **DOZENS** WHO HATED HIM!

BETTER CALL COMMISSIONER DOLAN TO TAKE OVER!

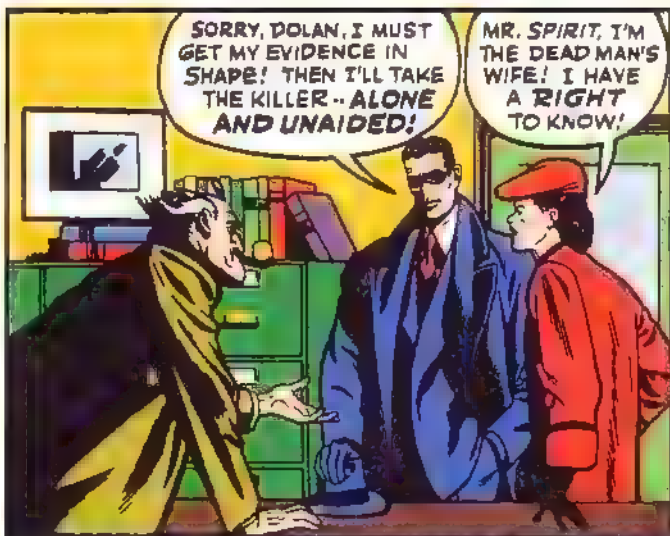
YES, MRS. BRATTON, IT'LL BE DIFFICULT TO FIND YOUR HUSBAND'S MURDERER...

WRONG, DOLAN!

I'VE LOOKED OVER ALL THE EVIDENCE --- IT POINTS ONLY **ONE WAY!** ONLY **ONE PERSON COULD HAVE KILLED BOND BRATTON!**

WHO, SPIRIT? WHO?



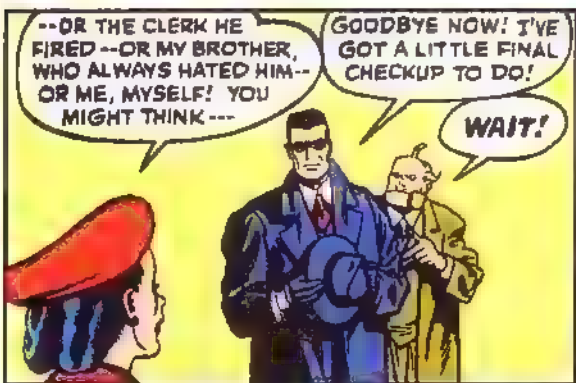
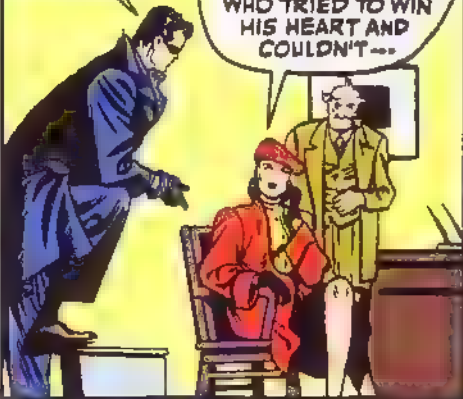


SORRY, DOLAN, I MUST GET MY EVIDENCE IN SHAPE! THEN I'LL TAKE THE KILLER-- **ALONE AND UNAIDED!**

MR. SPIRIT, I'M THE DEAD MAN'S WIFE! I HAVE A **RIGHT TO KNOW!**

YOU KNOW YOUR HUSBAND WELL! HAVEN'T YOU A THEORY?

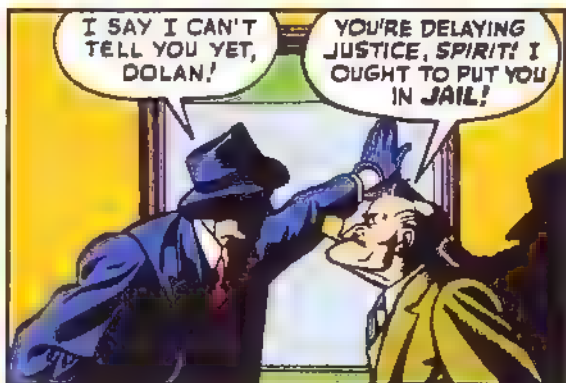
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN HIS PARTNER, RAYNOL-- OR A CUSTOMER WHO FELT CHEATED --OR THAT STENOGRAPHER WHO TRIED TO WIN HIS HEART AND COULDN'T--



--OR THE CLERK HE FIRED --OR MY BROTHER, WHO ALWAYS HATED HIM-- OR ME, MYSELF! YOU MIGHT THINK ---

GOODBYE NOW! I'VE GOT A LITTLE FINAL CHECKUP TO DO!

**WAIT!**



I SAY I CAN'T TELL YOU YET, DOLAN!

YOU'RE DELAYING JUSTICE, SPIRIT! I OUGHT TO PUT YOU IN JAIL!



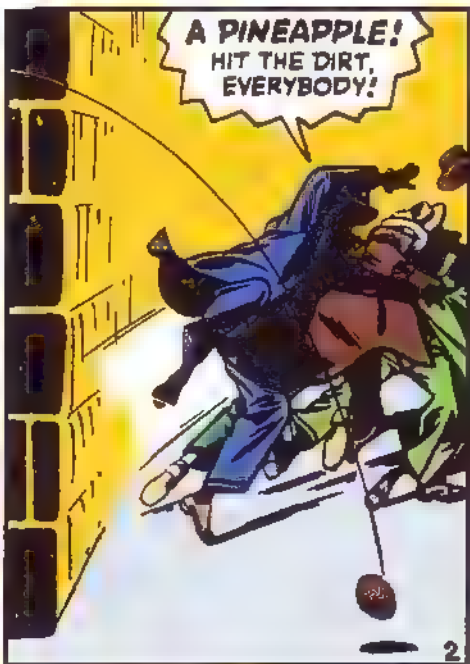
BUT IF YOU DID, I'D STILL KEEP STILL --AND, WITH ME SHUT UP, THE KILLER WOULD GET AWAY! SEE YOU LATER -- WITH A MURDERER IN MY HAND!



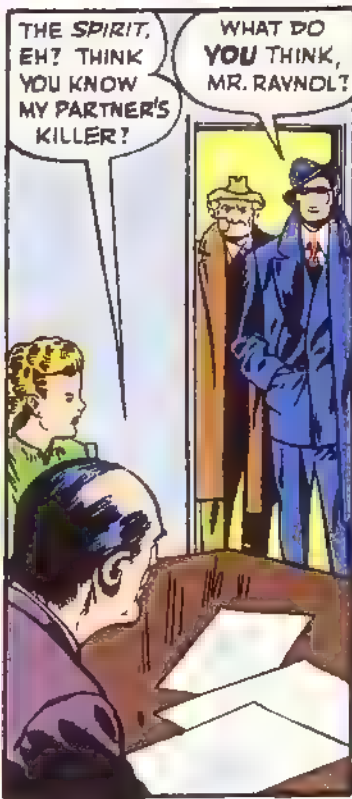
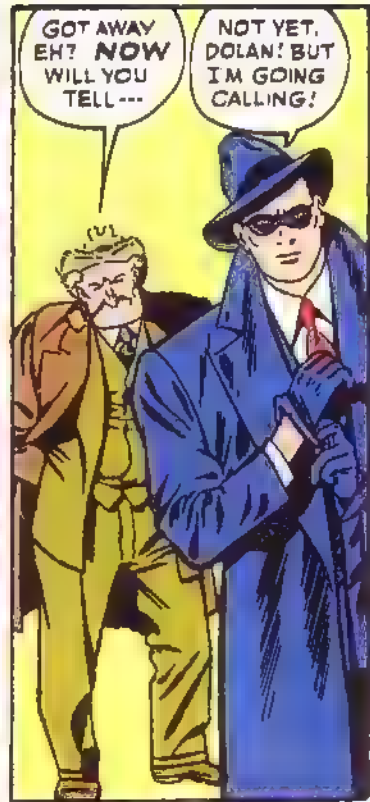
News spreads fast-- reporters gather---

ARE YOU ON THE LEVEL, SPIRIT? YOU KNOW THE BRATTON MURDERER? GIVE US A BREAK!

IT'LL HAVE TO WAIT, FELLOWS! BUT YOU WON'T WAIT LONG!



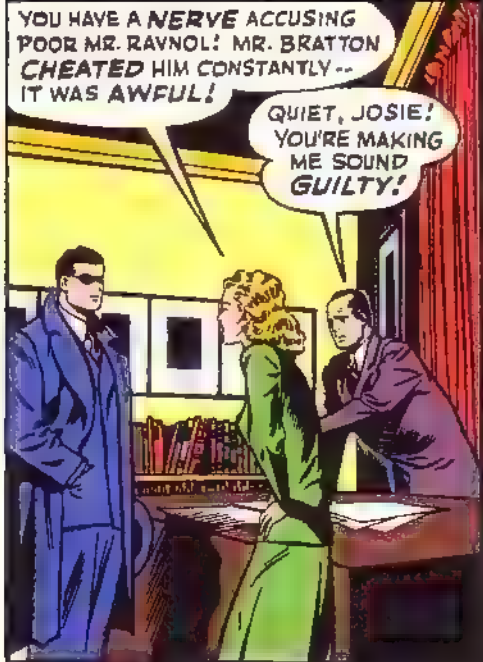
**A PINEAPPLE!** HIT THE DIRT, EVERYBODY!





YOU HAVE A NERVE ACCUSING  
POOR MR. RAYNOL! MR. BRATTON  
**CHEATED** HIM CONSTANTLY--  
IT WAS AWFUL!

QUIET, JOSIE!  
YOU'RE MAKING  
ME SOUND  
**GUILTY!**



OH, NO! NO!  
I WANT TO HELP  
BECAUSE I--  
I--LOVE----

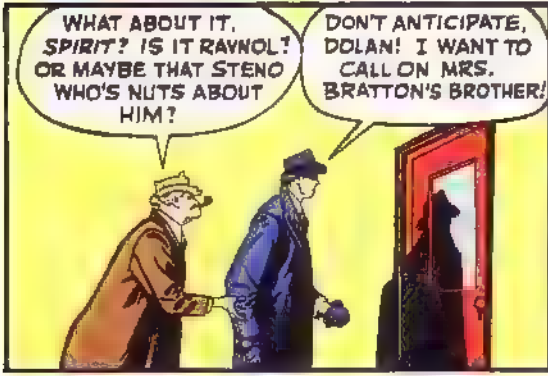
AHEM!  
PLEASE, MY  
DEAR  
JOSIE--

EXCUSE ME!  
I SEE YOU TWO  
WANT TO BE  
ALONE!



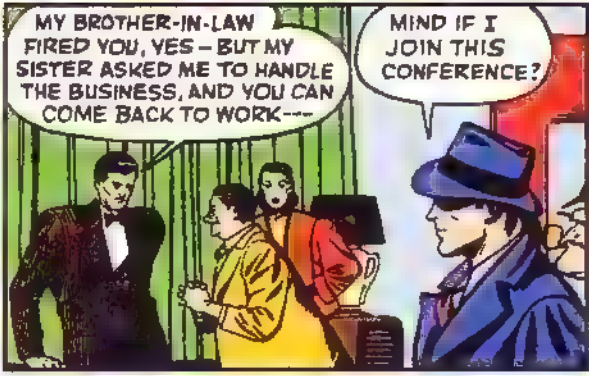
WHAT ABOUT IT,  
SPIRIT? IS IT RAYNOL?  
OR MAYBE THAT STENO  
WHO'S NUTS ABOUT  
HIM?

DON'T ANTICIPATE,  
DOLAN! I WANT TO  
CALL ON MRS.  
BRATTON'S BROTHER!



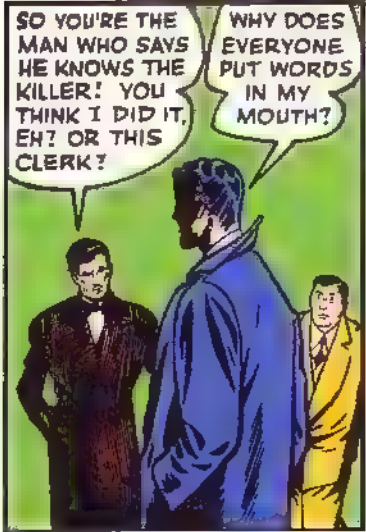
MY BROTHER-IN-LAW  
FIRED YOU, YES-- BUT MY  
SISTER ASKED ME TO HANDLE  
THE BUSINESS, AND YOU CAN  
COME BACK TO WORK---

MIND IF I  
JOIN THIS  
CONFERENCE?



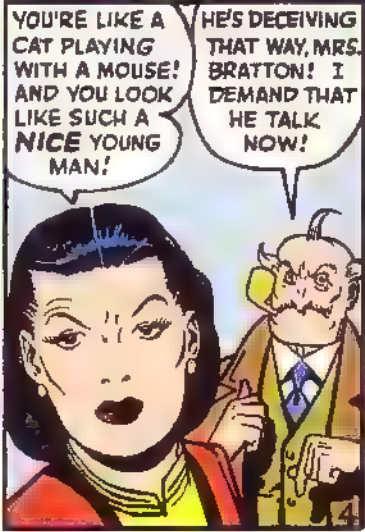
SO YOU'RE THE  
MAN WHO SAYS  
HE KNOWS THE  
KILLER! YOU  
THINK I DID IT,  
EH? OR THIS  
CLERK?

WHY DOES  
EVERYONE  
PUT WORDS  
IN MY MOUTH?



YOU'RE LIKE A  
CAT PLAYING  
WITH A MOUSE!  
AND YOU LOOK  
LIKE SUCH A  
**NICE** YOUNG  
MAN!

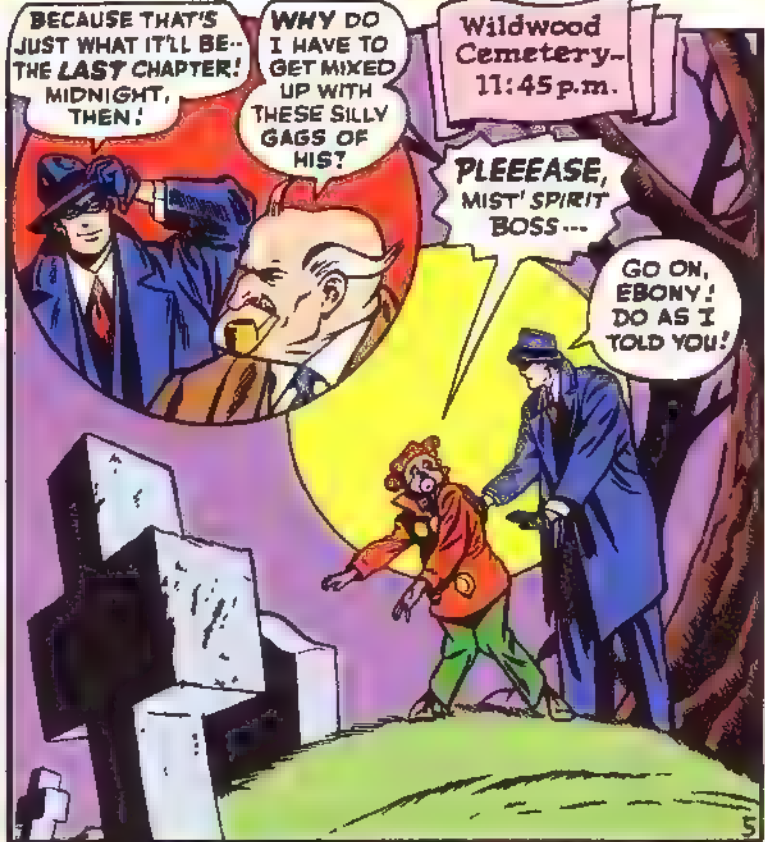
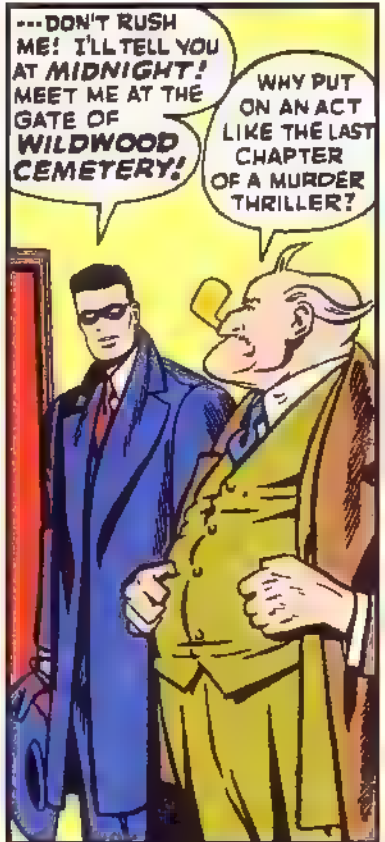
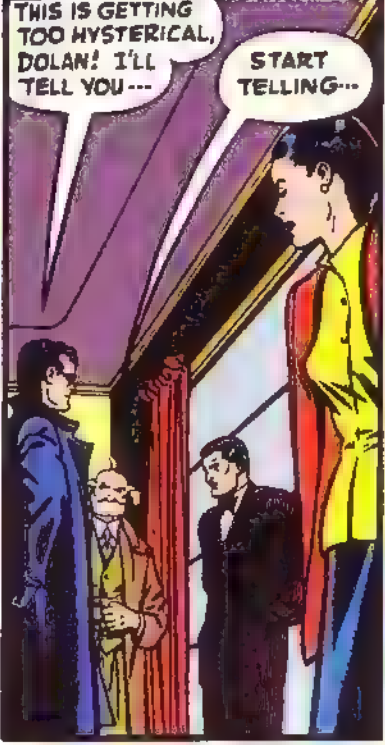
HE'S DECEIVING  
THAT WAY, MRS.  
BRATTON! I  
DEMAND THAT  
HE TALK  
NOW!



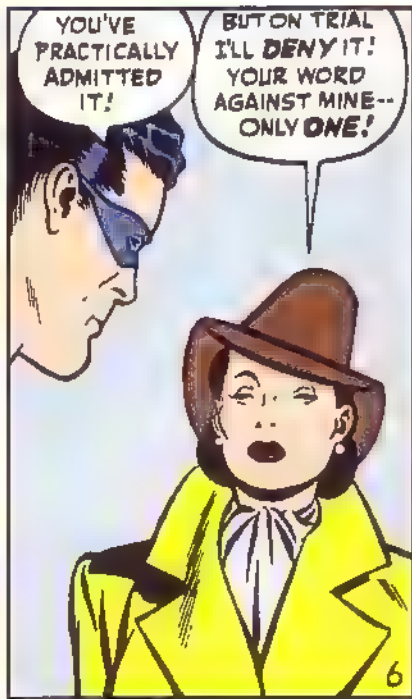
NOW, NOW!  
I'LL TALK  
WHEN I'M  
READY!

YOU'RE READY  
NOW-- BECAUSE  
I'M GOING TO  
**SLAP** IT OUT  
OF YOU!











BETTER COUNT US WITNESSES AG'IN, MISSUS! AH HEARD WHAT YO' JUST SAID!



WAIT! I KILLED HIM FOR MONEY! I'LL DIVIDE IT WITH YOU---

GET ALL THIS, EBONY! ... IT'S PERFECT EVIDENCE!

HERE I AM, SPIRIT! READY TO TELL THE NAME OF THE KILLER?

I'LL LET THE KILLER TELL YOU, HERSELF!



Later...

SHE SIGNED A FULL CONFESSION! EVERYTHING! BUT HOW DID **YOU** KNOW FROM THE START?

I DIDN'T!



I KNEW THE MURDERER WAS DESPERATE -- WOULD TRY TO KILL **ME** IF I SEEMED TO KNOW TOO MUCH -- SO ...

I NEVER HEARD OF ANYTHING SO SILLY IN MY LIFE! WHAT IF SHE'D **SUCCEEDED** IN KILLING YOU?



THEN THINK OF THE **DOUBLE MURDER** **YOU** COULD HAVE SOLVED, **DOLAN!**

YES--AND FOR ONCE I COULD HAVE HAD THE CASE **ALL TO MYSELF--** WITHOUT **YOU** BUTTING IN!



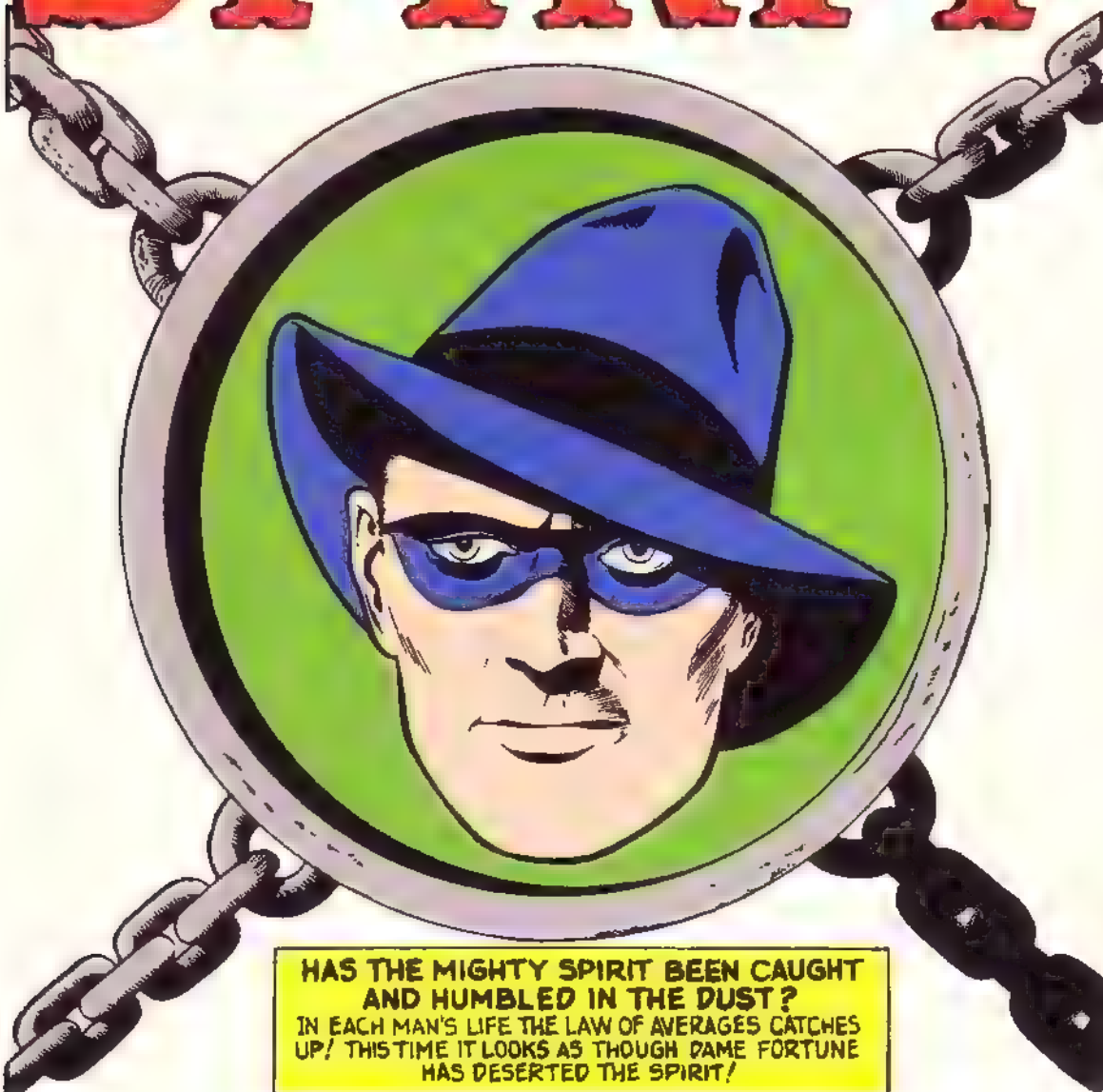
**COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION**

**DIAMONDS AND RATS**

*April 22 1945*

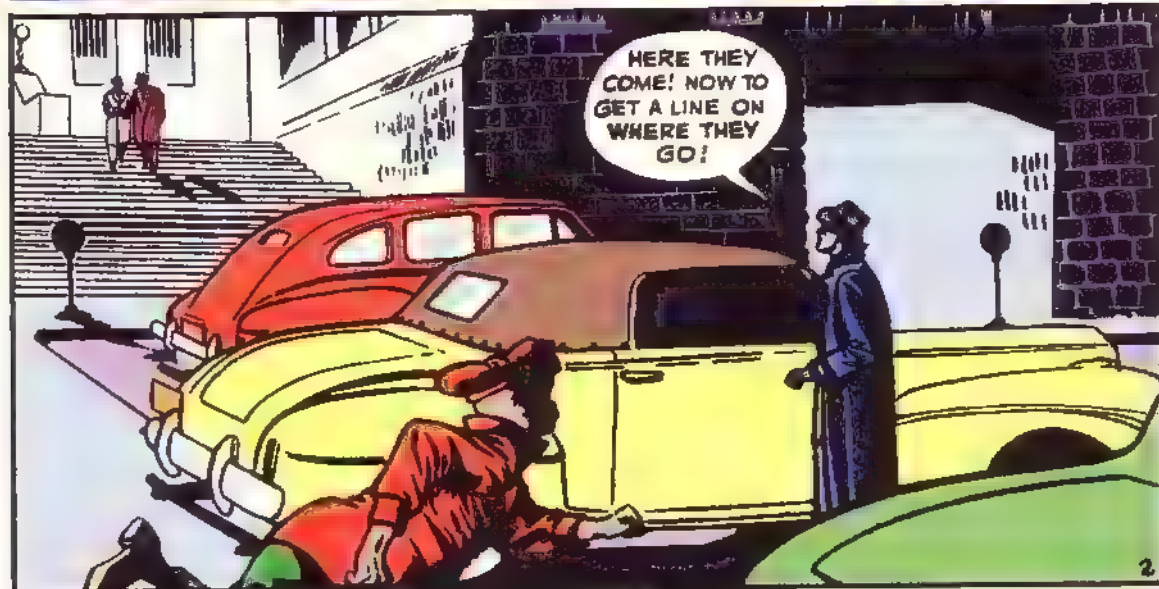
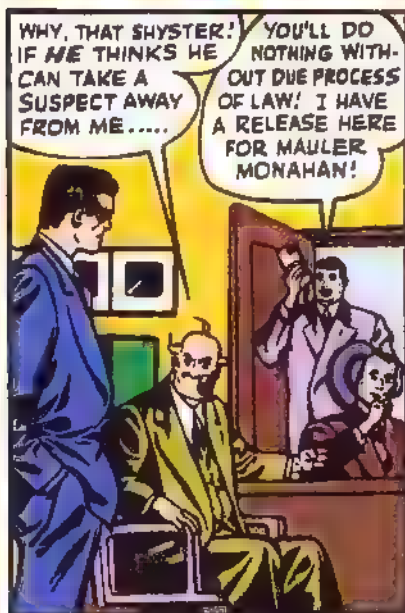
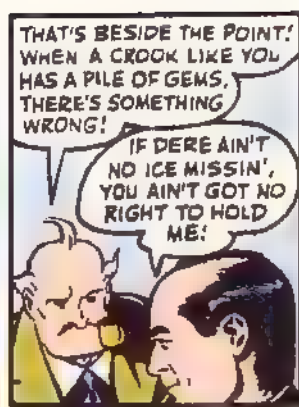
**ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE**

# THE SPIRIT

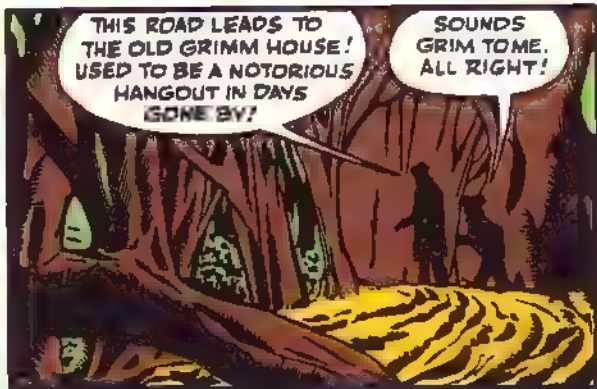
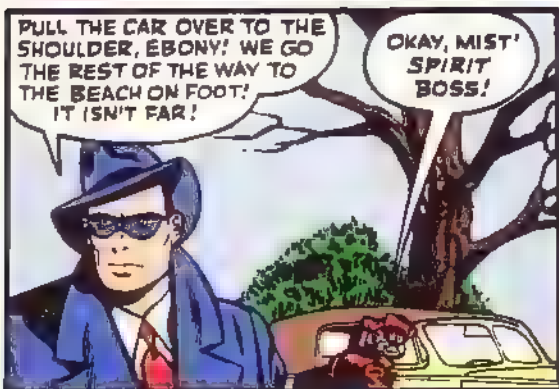
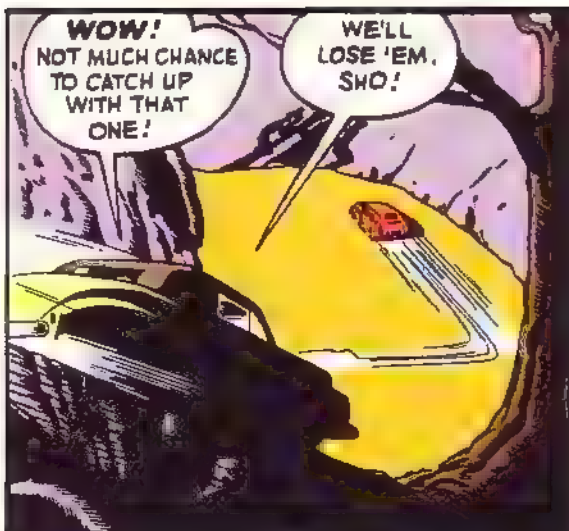


**HAS THE MIGHTY SPIRIT BEEN CAUGHT  
AND HUMBLD IN THE DUST?**

**IN EACH MAN'S LIFE THE LAW OF AVERAGES CATCHES  
UP! THIS TIME IT LOOKS AS THOUGH DAME FORTUNE  
HAS DESERTED THE SPIRIT!**







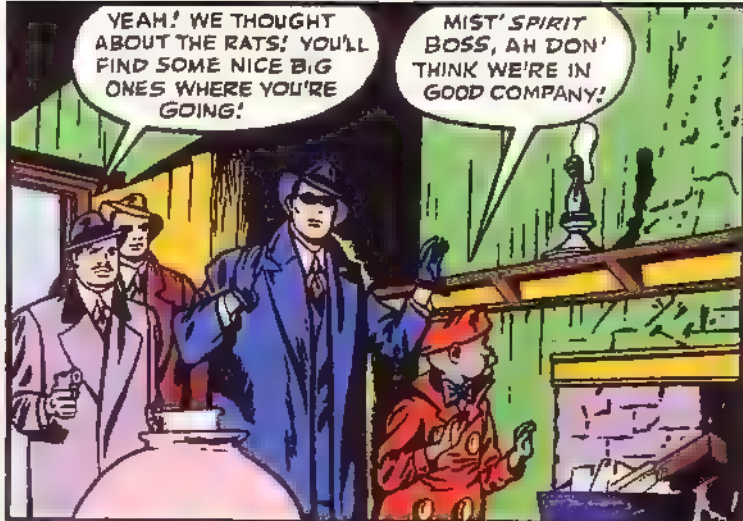
YOU BROKE THE CONTACT ON AN ELECTRIC EYE COMING IN, SPIRIT! WE'RE MODERN, YOU SEE!

YES, I LIKE THE STREAMLINED HEADQUARTERS! JUST THE RIGHT SETTING FOR RATS!



YEAH! WE THOUGHT ABOUT THE RATS! YOU'LL FIND SOME NICE BIG ONES WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

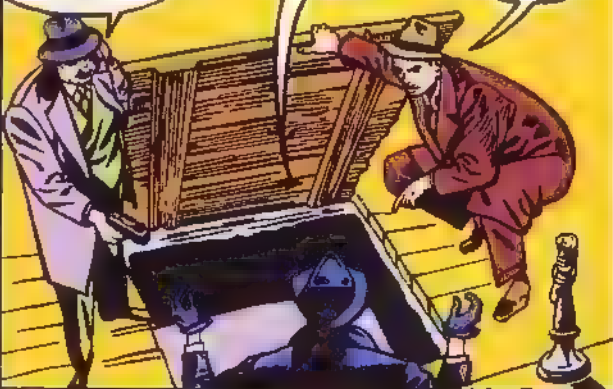
MIST' SPIRIT BOSS, AH DON' THINK WE'RE IN GOOD COMPANY!



I BOUGHT THIS PROPERTY WHEN I LEARNED ITS INTERESTING HISTORY!

INTERESTINGLY CROOKED LIKE YOURSELF, EH?

NONE O' YOUR LIP! GET DOWN THERE!



AFTER YOU, MY DEAR SIR!



JUANITO! HALP!

NOW TO GIVE YOU A LESSON IN THE MODERN HISTORY OF THE FIST!



NOW YOU CAN JOIN YOUR PAL WHILE I DO SOME INVESTIGATING!

GULP! ... HALP!

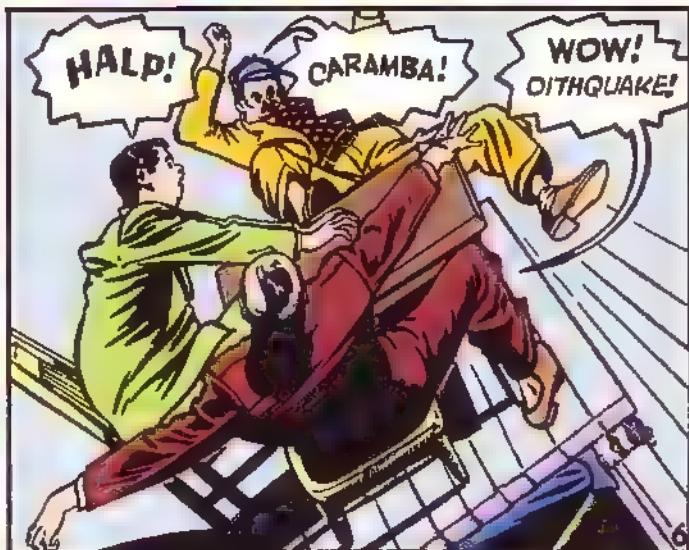
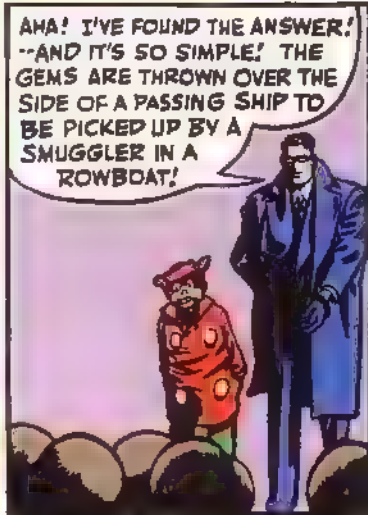
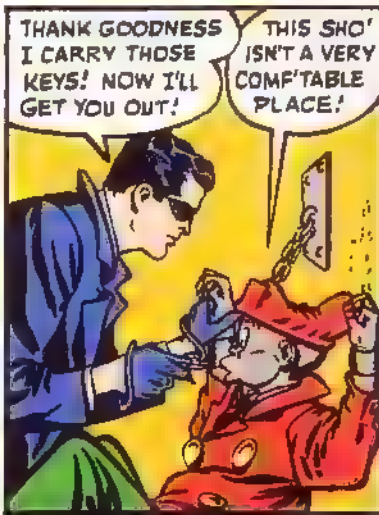


OH, LAWSY!

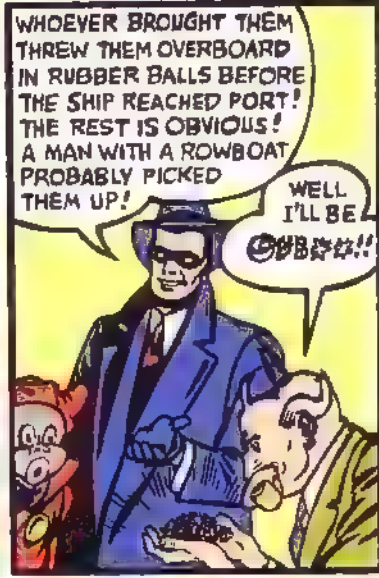
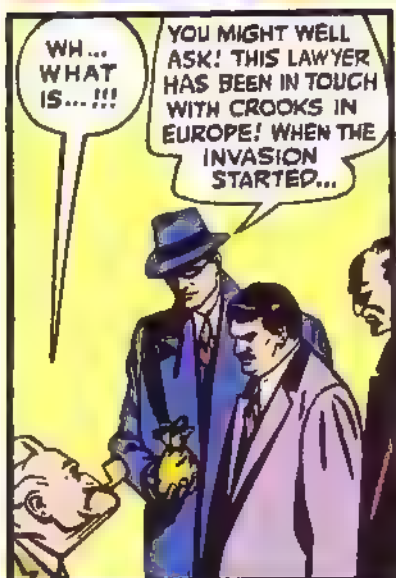
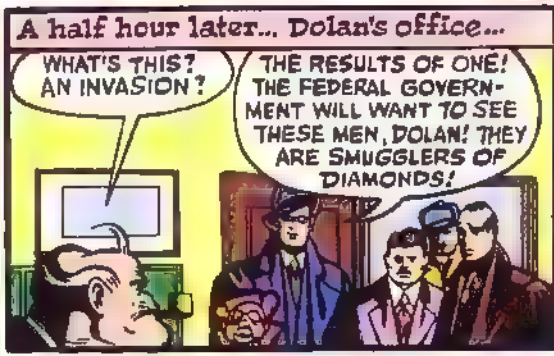












# The Spirit

At the gate to  
Wildwood Cemetery—

IT'S BEEN  
A LONG DAY!  
I CAN DO WITH  
SOME SLEEP!

AH  
COULD USE  
SOME  
SHUT-EYE,  
MAHSELF!

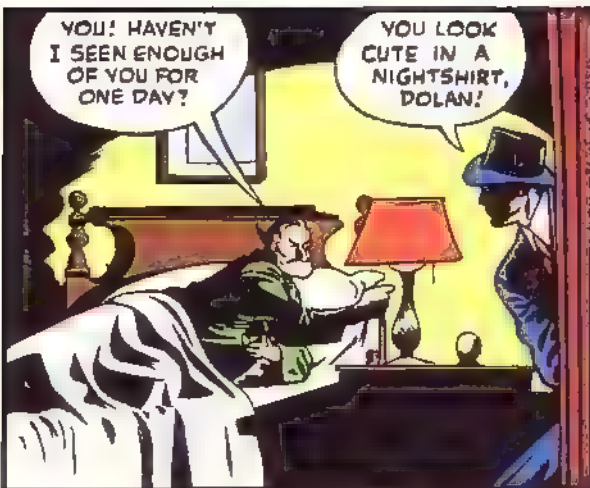
THAT'S AN  
ODD PLACE  
TO SPEND THE  
NIGHT!

PROB'LY  
A DRUNK!



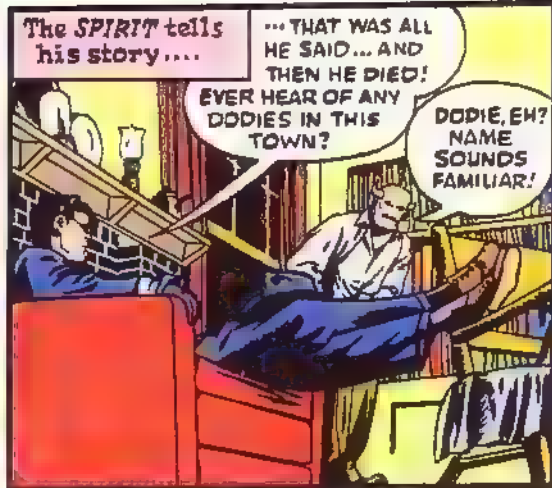






YOU! HAVEN'T I SEEN ENOUGH OF YOU FOR ONE DAY?

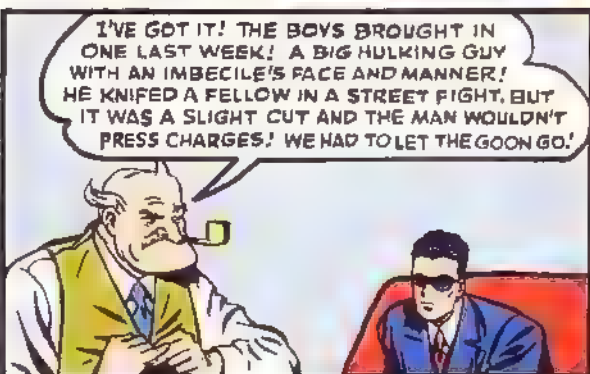
YOU LOOK CUTE IN A NIGHTSHIRT, DOLAN!



The SPIRIT tells his story....

... THAT WAS ALL HE SAID... AND THEN HE DIED! EVER HEAR OF ANY DODIES IN THIS TOWN?

DODIE, EH? NAME SOUNDS FAMILIAR!



I'VE GOT IT! THE BOYS BROUGHT IN ONE LAST WEEK! A BIG HULKING GUY WITH AN IMBECILE'S FACE AND MANNER! HE KNIFED A FELLOW IN A STREET FIGHT, BUT IT WAS A SLIGHT CUT AND THE MAN WOULDN'T PRESS CHARGES! WE HAD TO LET THE GOON GO!



I'LL GET THE ADDRESS FROM HEADQUARTERS!



THE DODIES DON'T LIVE IN THE BEST PART OF TOWN!

THAT'S THE HOUSE! PROBABLY A MANSION COMPARED TO THE HOVEL THEY LEFT DOWN IN GEORGIA!... WE LEARNED FROM THE BOY THAT THEY ONLY CAME UP RECENTLY!



GIT! T'AIN'T NO TIME TER BE WAKIN' FOLKS UP!

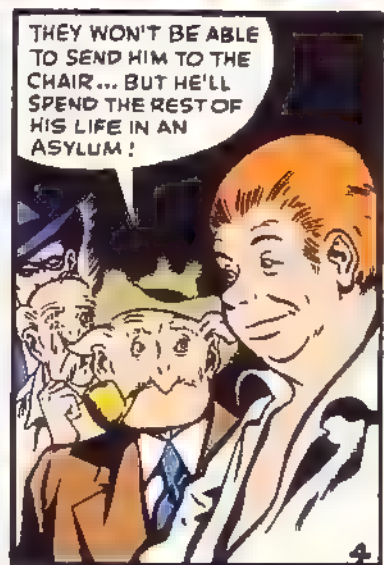
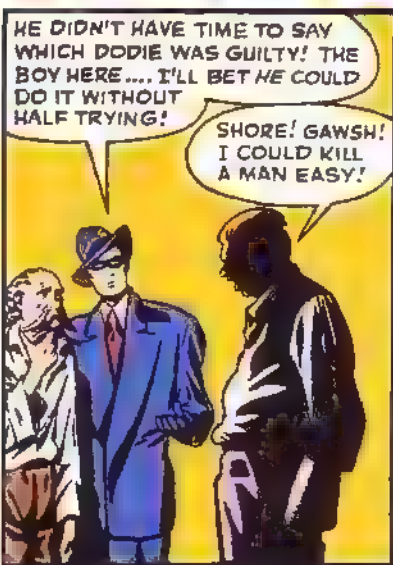
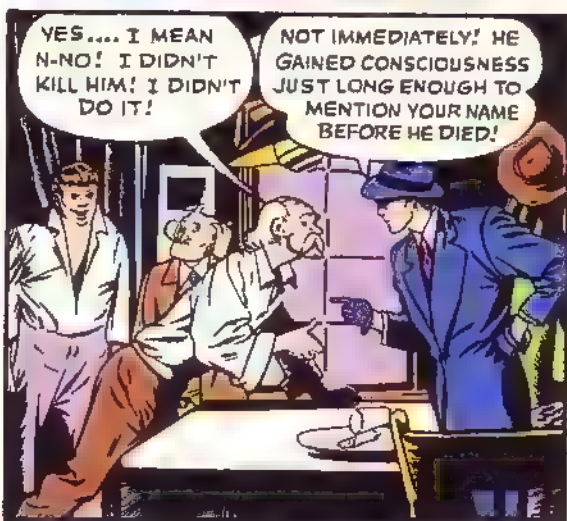
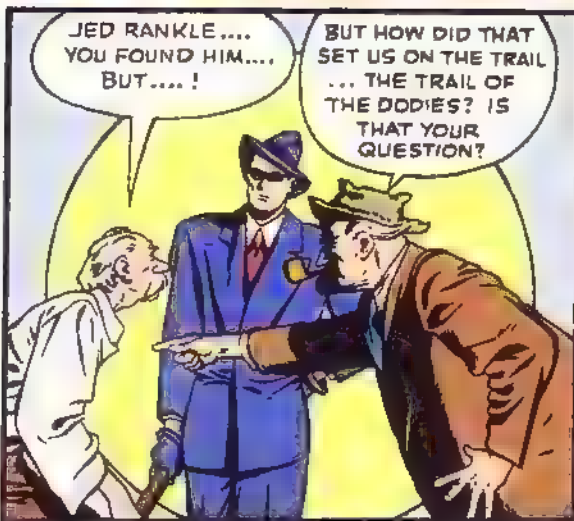
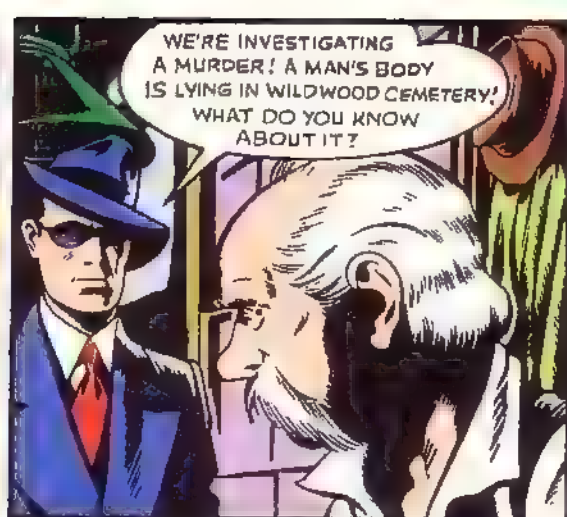
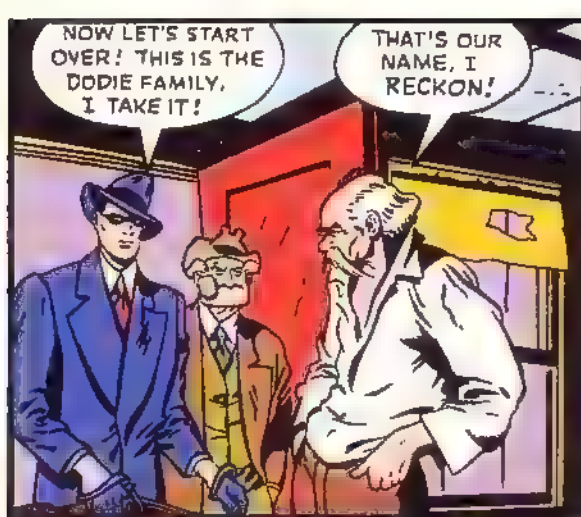


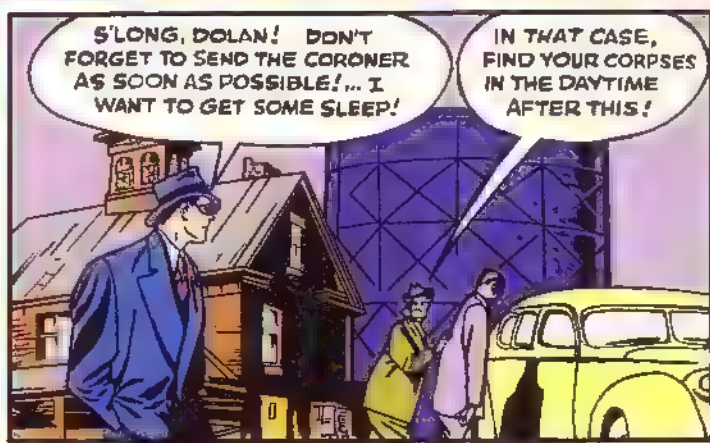
AND THAT'S NO WAY TO GREET PEOPLE AT ANY HOUR!

HEY! ... THAT SHOT'LL BRING THE RIOT SQUAD OUT!

YIPE! BANG!

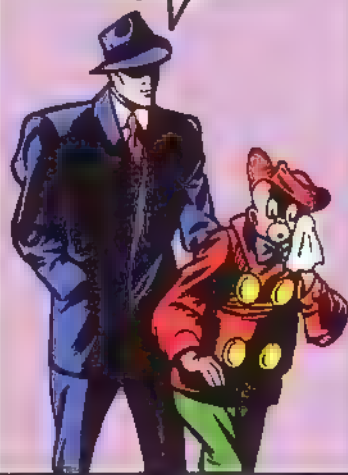








YOU CAN GO ALONG  
NOW, EBONY! I'LL  
STAY HERE UNTIL THE  
CORONER'S MEN  
ARRIVE!



WHERE'S THEM  
MEN WHO TOOK  
MY BROTHER  
SIM AWAY?

HUH?..  
YO'ALL  
GOIN' TO  
USE THAT  
WEAPON ON  
SOMEBODY?



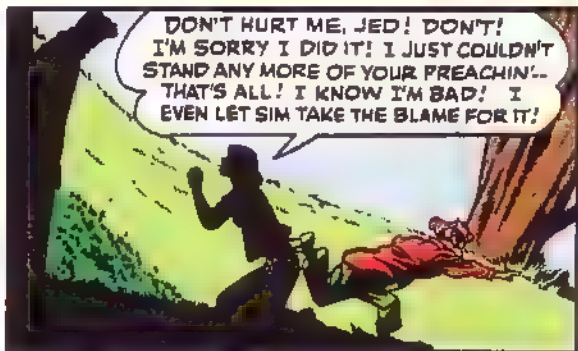
SO  
THAT'S MY  
NEMESIS!



JED! NO!  
NO, JED!  
YOU'RE  
DEAD!



DON'T HURT ME, JED! DON'T!  
I'M SORRY I DID IT! I JUST COULDN'T  
STAND ANY MORE OF YOUR PREACHIN'..  
THAT'S ALL! I KNOW I'M BAD! I  
EVEN LET SIM TAKE THE BLAME FOR IT!



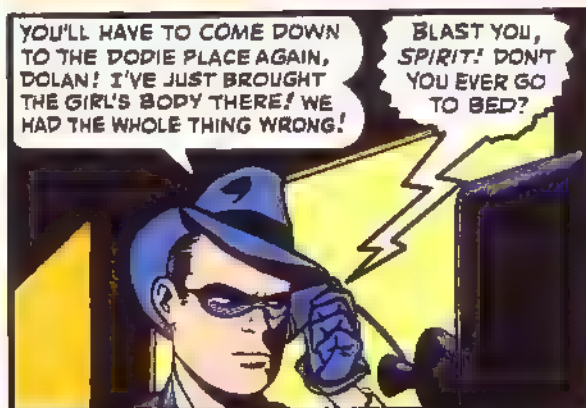
THAT'S A VERY  
INTERESTING STORY,  
YOUNG LADY! TELL  
ME MORE!

YOU?

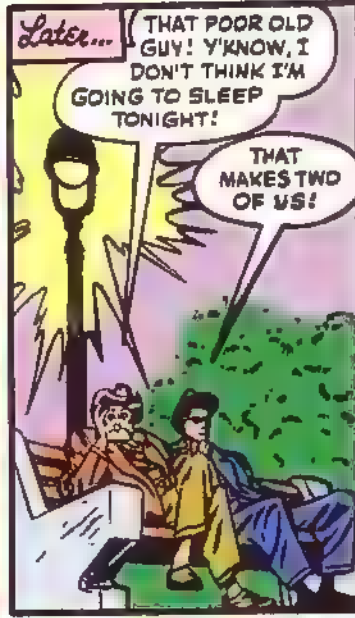
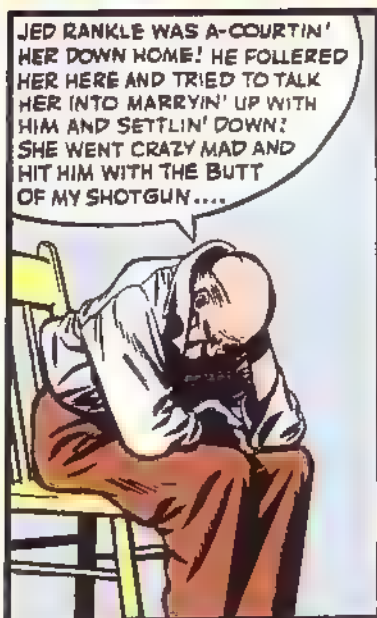
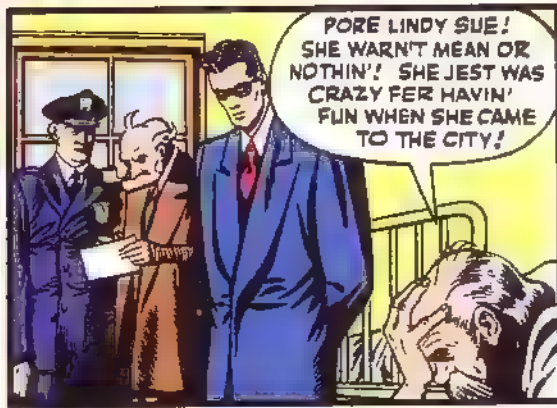


FAST  
AS A  
DEER!





BLAST YOU, SPIRIT! DON'T YOU EVER GO TO BED?



THAT MAKES TWO OF US!



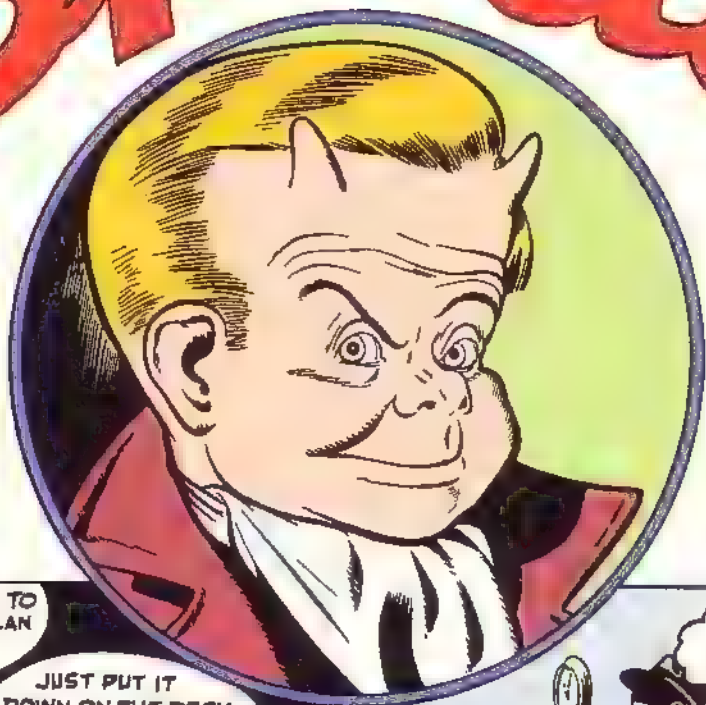
**COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION**

**COUSIN DORA'S LITTLE EGBERT**

May 6 1945

**ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE**

# *The Spirit*

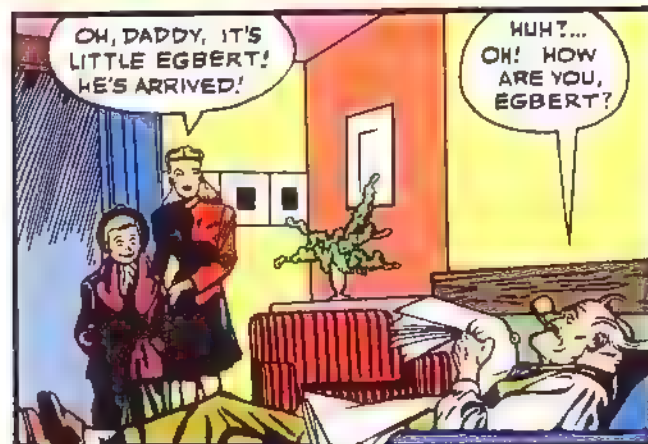
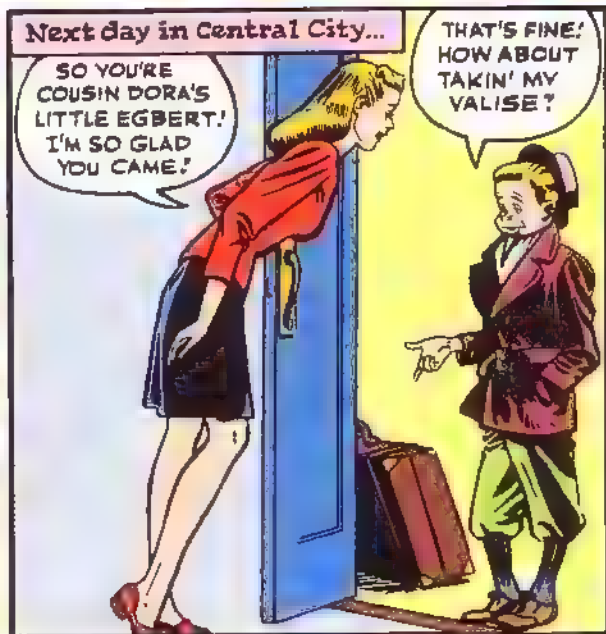
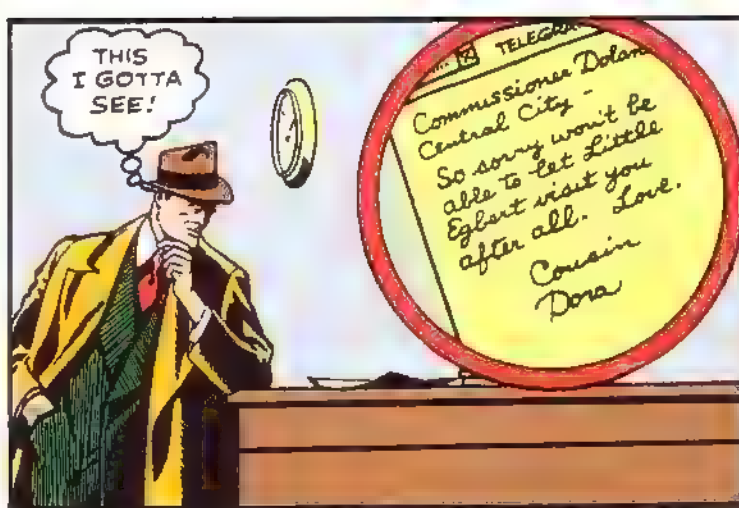


PLEASE SEND THIS TO  
COMMISSIONER DOLAN  
IN CENTRAL CITY  
RIGHT AWAY!

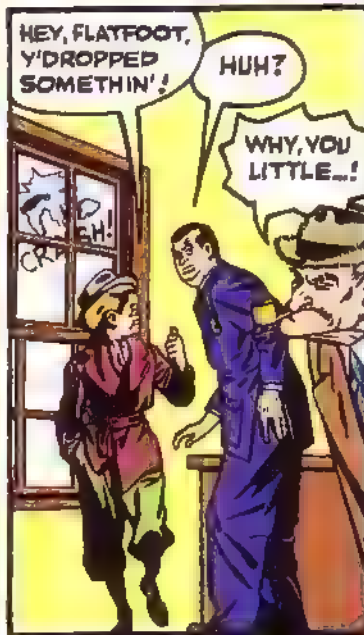
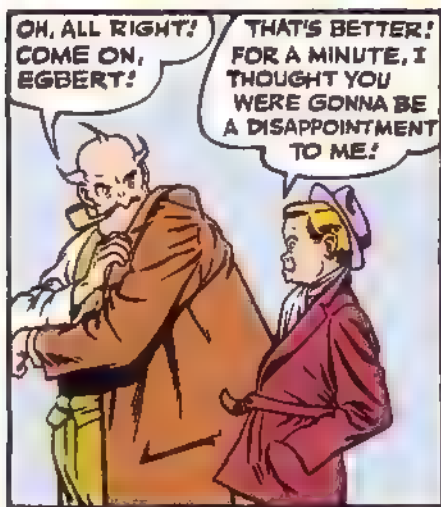
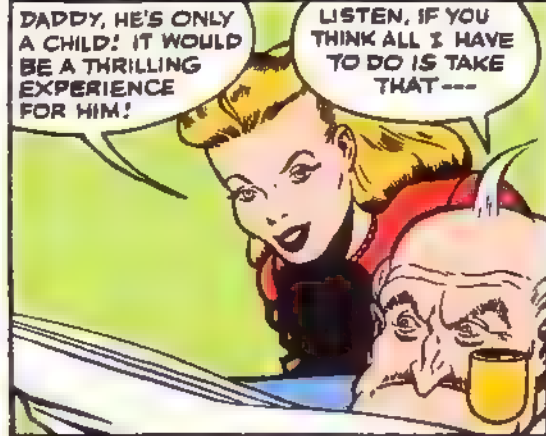
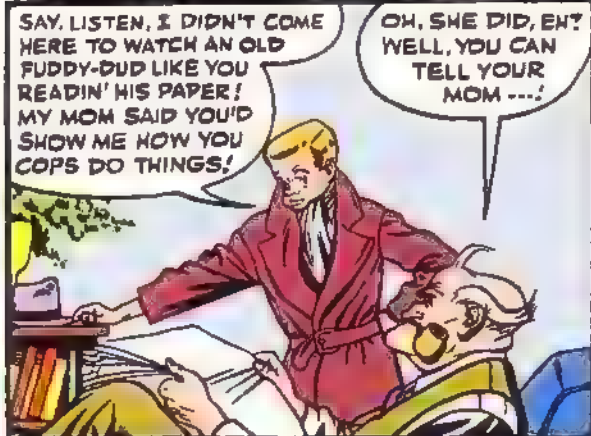
CENTRAL  
TELEGRAPH  
SYSTEM

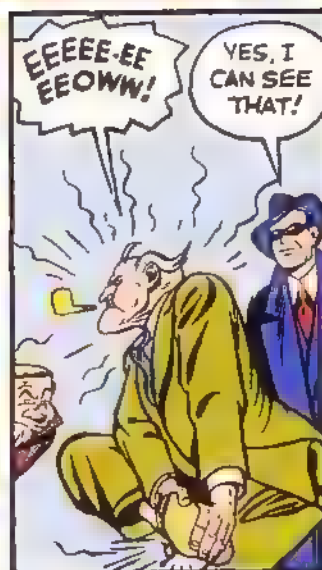
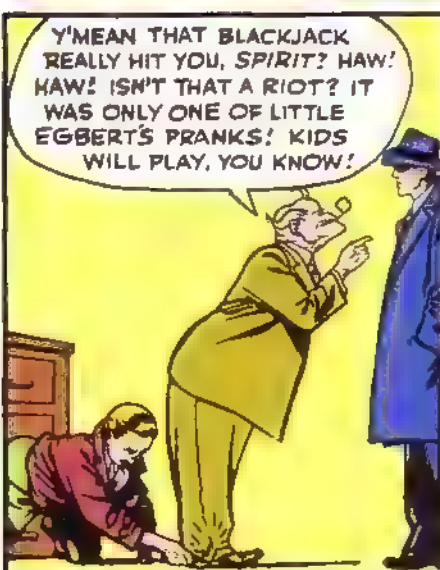
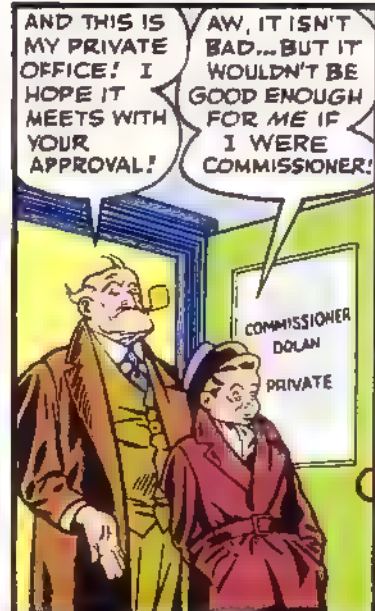
JUST PUT IT  
DOWN ON THE DESK,  
LADY! I'LL TAKE CARE  
OF IT IN JUST A  
MOMENT!

COMMISSIONER  
DOLAN?

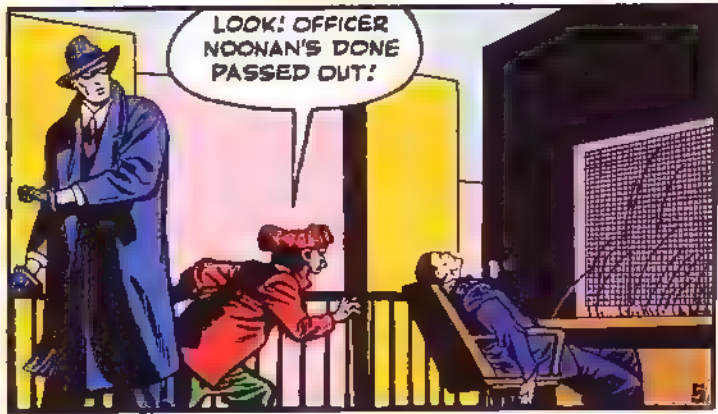
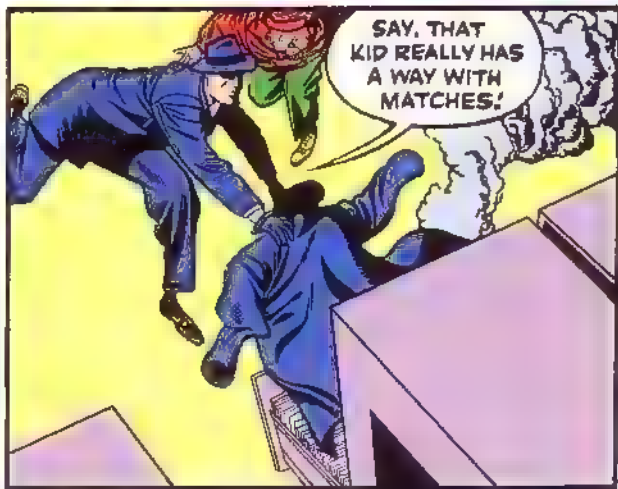
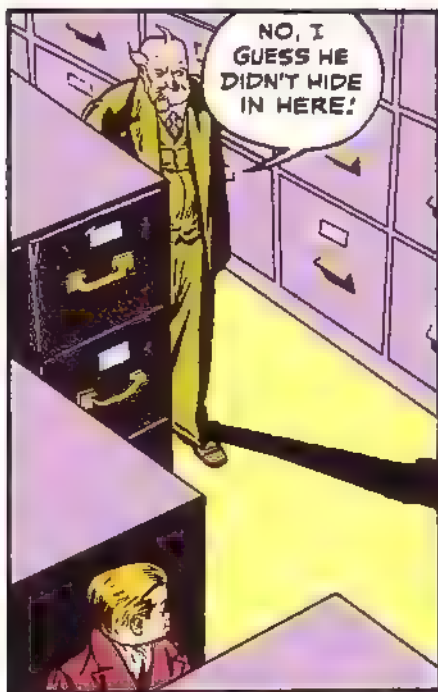


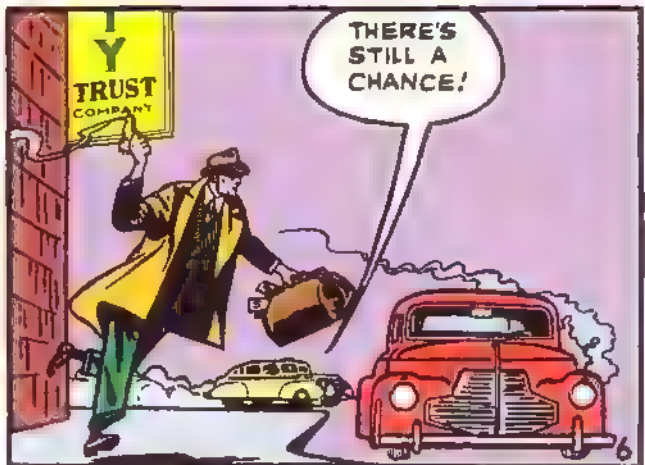
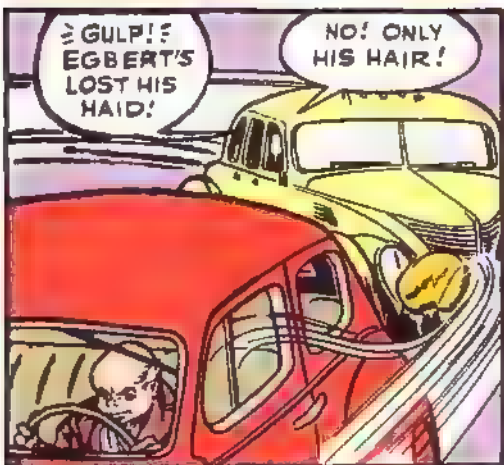
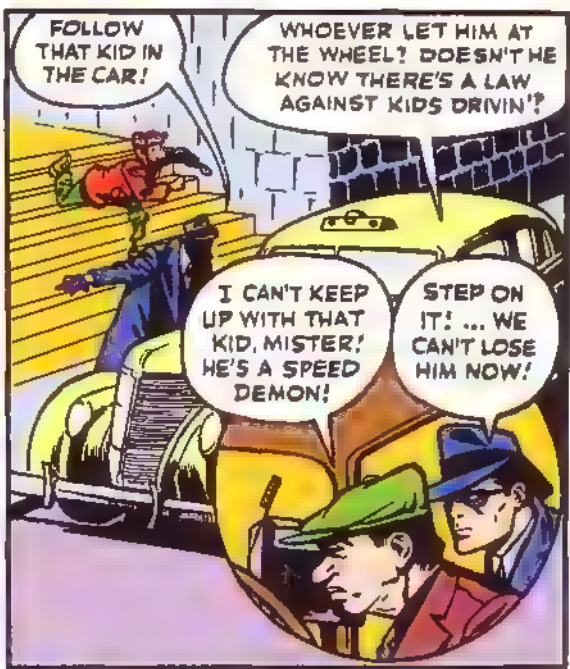




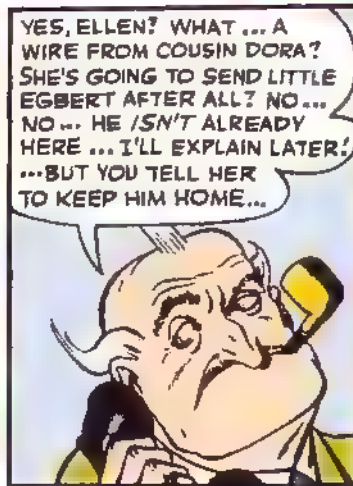
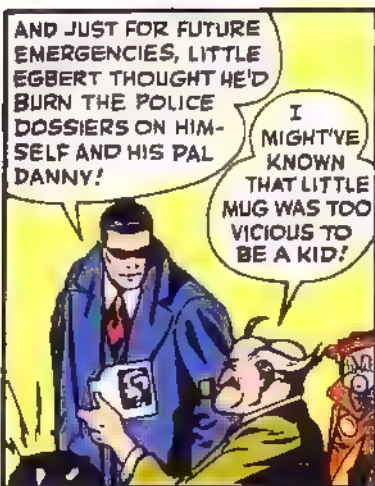
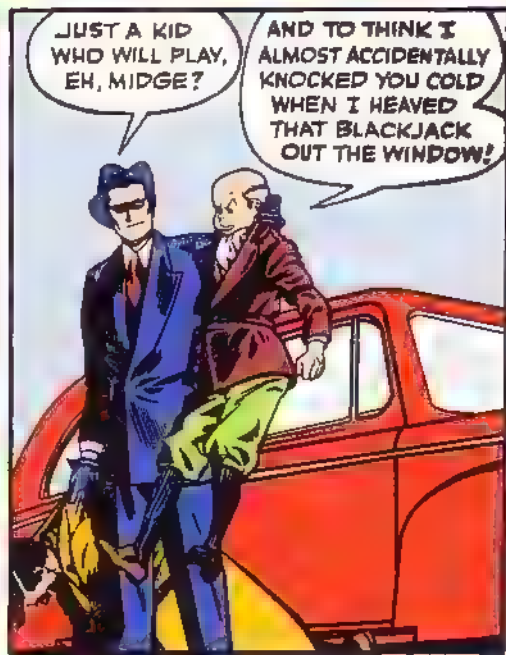
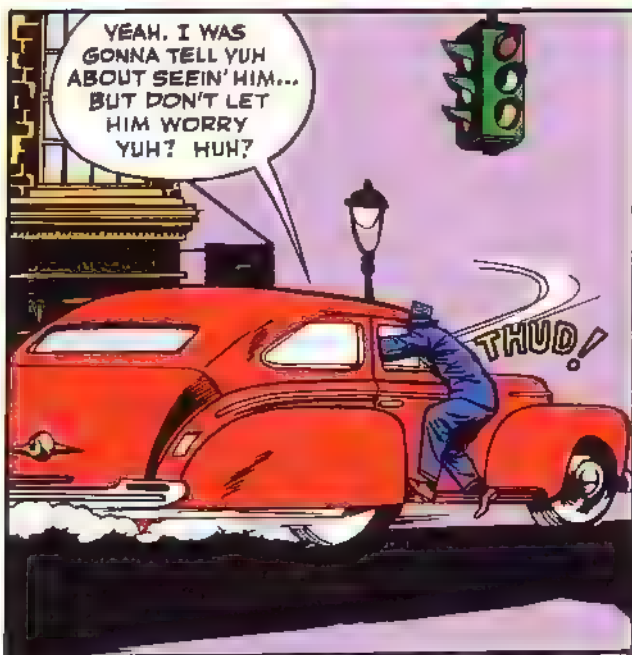
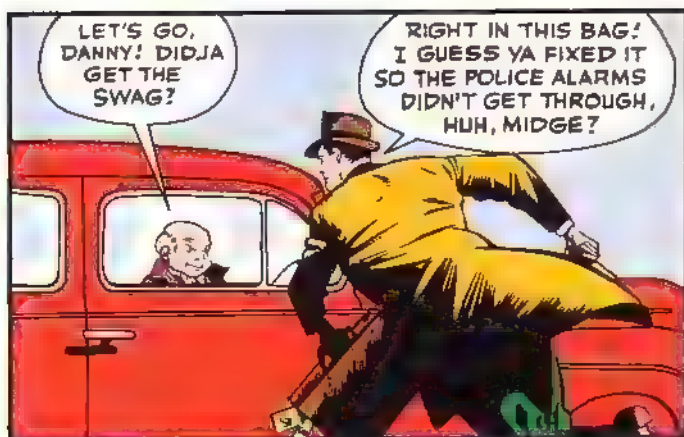












# THE SPIRIT

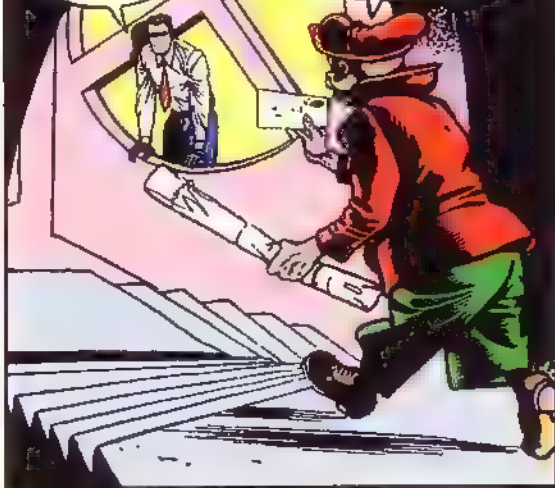
PSST! -- WANNA HAVE A LI'L  
ADVENTURE AND SEE SOME FAST  
ACTION? JEST FOLLA ME -- AH'M  
GOIN' DOWN TO SEE THE  
**SPIRIT!**

by  
*Will Eisner*

In the *SPIRIT'S* strange cozy home, deep  
under a tomb in Wildwood Cemetery...

BACK  
FROM THE  
POST OFFICE,  
EBONY?

YASSUH --- PACKAGE  
FO' YOU, COME TO  
GEN'L DELIV'RY --  
LIKEWISE DIS  
LETTAH!

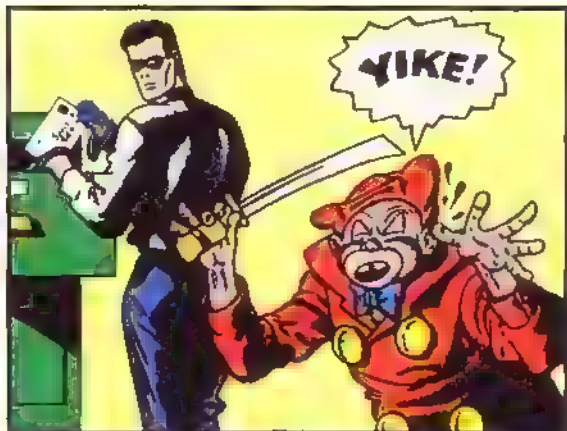
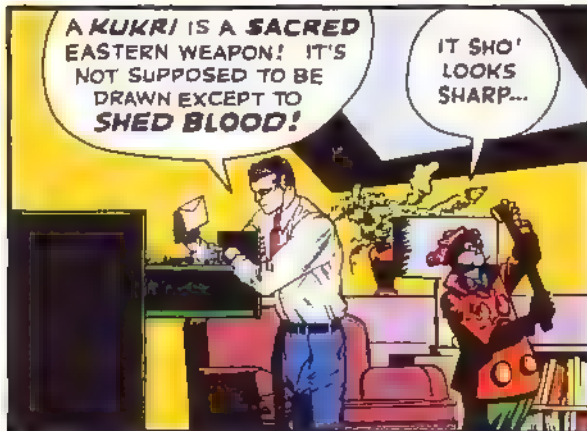


IT'S ABOUT THE DEATH OF  
RAM GUNGA, THAT ORIENTAL  
CROOK WE HELPED TRAP!  
HE DIED OF PNEUMONIA,  
WAITING FOR TRIAL -- TOLD  
THE POLICE TO SEND  
ME HIS **KUKRI** ---

AND  
THIS MUST  
BE IT!



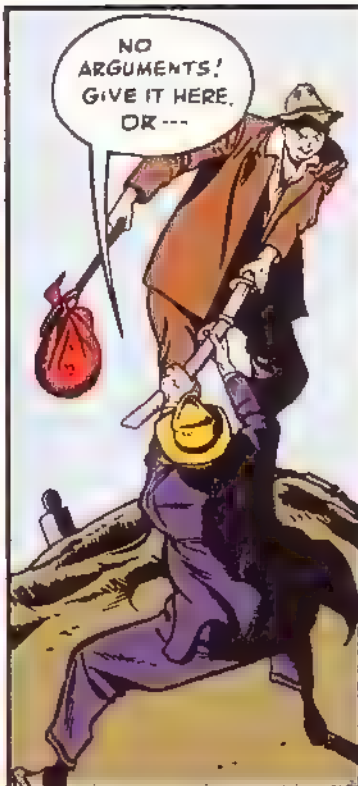




Perhaps there was a **REAL WISH** TO CAUSE TROUBLE in Ram Gunga's strange bequest.....

IT'S ABOUT RAM GUNGA! SAYS HERE THE SPIRIT INHERITED THAT KUKRI! I WONDER IF HE KNOWS THERE'S A PRECIOUS **RUBY** HIDDEN IN THE HILT?







YOU MEAN THIS  
GOOD-LUCK PIECE OF MINE?  
I CARRY IT WITH ME! ...  
COME ON, WE'VE GOT  
SOME SUCKERS TO  
LINE UP!



And so, throughout Central City...

THE OTHER TOWN BAKERS ARE FALLING  
IN LINE, BUB! PAY PLENTY AND WE KEEP  
YOUR PIE BUSINESS GOING WITHOUT A  
HITCH! BUT IF YOU DON'T JOIN OUR  
ASSOCIATION, YOU'RE LIABLE TO GET  
THE CUSTARD SQUEEZED  
OUT OF YOU!

IF I  
GOTTA, I  
GOTTA!



Not only WEARY is interested in pie....

AH SHO'LIKES PIE! THINK  
I'LL TAKE ONE HOME FO'  
ME AN' MIST' SPIRIT  
BOSS!



SEEMS LAK YO'S  
CHARGIN' ME MO' THAN  
THE CEILIN' PRICE,  
MISTAH!

I GOTTA, SON!  
NEED THE MONEY  
TO KICK BACK TO  
THE ASSOCIATION!

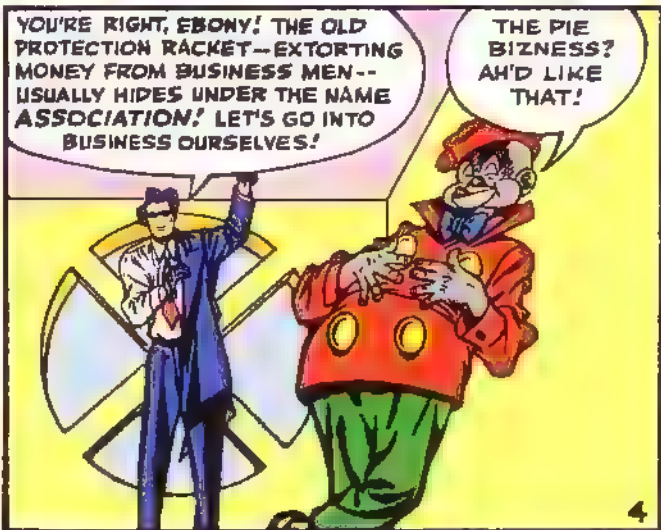


'SOCIATION? THAT'S  
GOT A SORTA FAMILIAR  
SOUN'! WAIT'LL AH  
TELL MIST' SPIRIT  
BOSS!



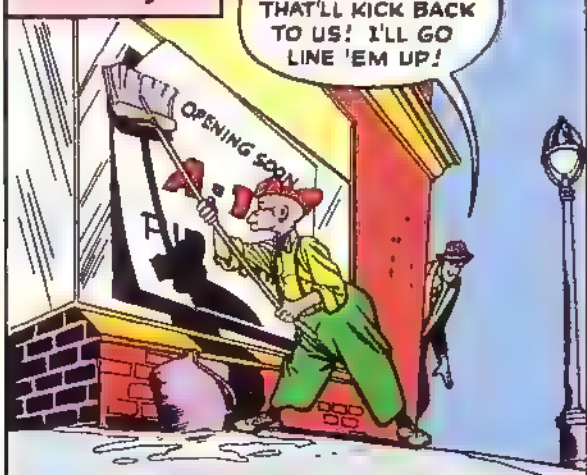
YOU'RE RIGHT, EBONY! THE OLD  
PROTECTION RACKET--EXTORTING  
MONEY FROM BUSINESS MEN--  
USUALLY HIDES UNDER THE NAME  
ASSOCIATION! LET'S GO INTO  
BUSINESS OURSELVES!

THE PIE  
BIZNESS?  
AHD LIKE  
THAT!



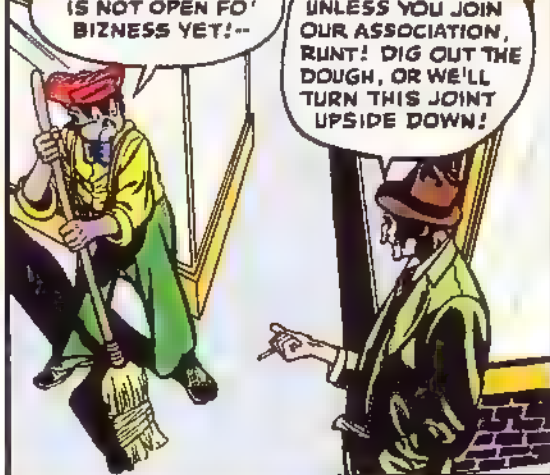
Next day...

ANOTHER OUTFIT  
THAT'LL KICK BACK  
TO US! I'LL GO  
LINE 'EM UP!



BUT-- THIS PLACE  
IS NOT OPEN FO'  
BIZNESS YET!--

YOU WON'T OPEN  
UNLESS YOU JOIN  
OUR ASSOCIATION,  
RUNT! DIG OUT THE  
DOUGH, OR WE'LL  
TURN THIS JOINT  
UPSIDE DOWN!



UPSIDE DOWN, HE  
SAYS! YOU MEAN,  
LIKE THIS?

HEY!



YOU'D BETTER  
JOIN **OUR**  
OUTFIT! THIS  
IS THE  
INITIATION!

WAIT UNTIL I  
TELL WEARY!  
WAIT -- JUST  
WAIT ....



THEY REFUSED, DID  
THEY? WELL, WE  
**NEED** A HORRIBLE  
EXAMPLE! WE'LL  
WIPE 'EM OUT  
TONIGHT!



OW!

HOW MANY TIMES  
I GOTTA TELL YOU  
NOT TO FOOL WITH  
MY LUCKY KNIFE I  
LET'S GET ORGANIZED  
FOR TONIGHT!





Came the evening ...



PERFECT, EBONY!  
THEY'RE NOT THE  
ONLY ONES WITH  
EFFICIENT  
RACKETS!

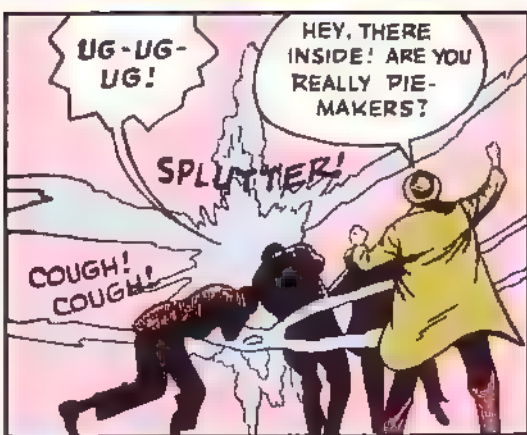


UG-UG-  
UG!

HEY, THERE  
INSIDE! ARE YOU  
REALLY PIE-  
MAKERS?

SPLUTTER!

COUGH!  
COUGH!



SURE, WE'RE PIE-  
MAKERS -- AND THESE  
LITTLE ITEMS WILL  
PROVE IT!



WHAT'S  
THE  
FUSS?

JEST MIST' SPIRIT  
BOSS, REFUSIN' TO  
JOIN THE PIE  
RACKET!



AS I LIVE AND  
BREATHE! I  
RECOGNIZE  
THESE FACES--  
WHAT'S LEFT  
OF 'EM!

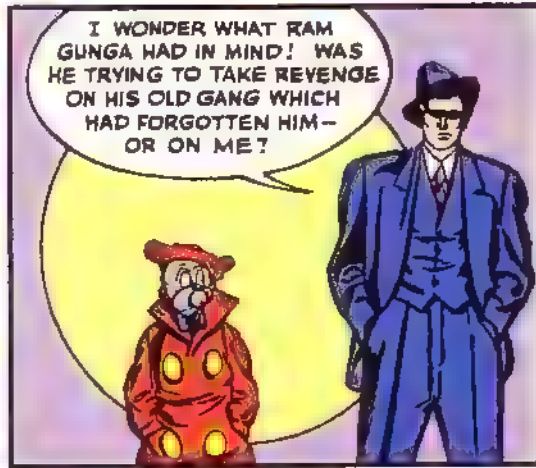
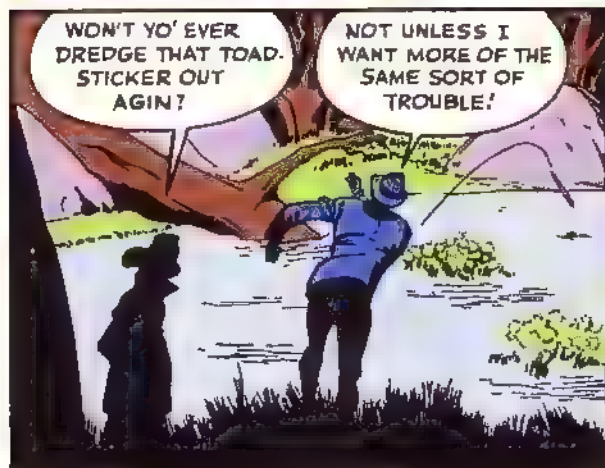
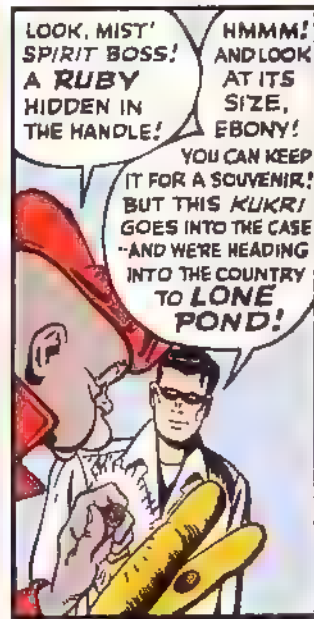
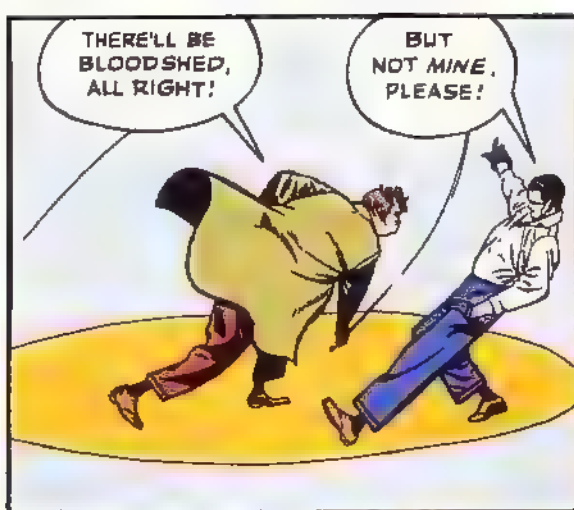
EVERY ONE OF  
'EM'S WANTED  
DOWN AT  
HEADQUARTERS!  
ROUND 'EM UP!



I'LL GET  
YOU,  
ANYWAY!

THE KUKRI!...  
THERE'S A BELIEF  
ABOUT THAT KNIFE  
-- SHOULDN'T BE  
DRAWN EXCEPT  
TO SHED  
BLOOD!







# THE SPIRIT

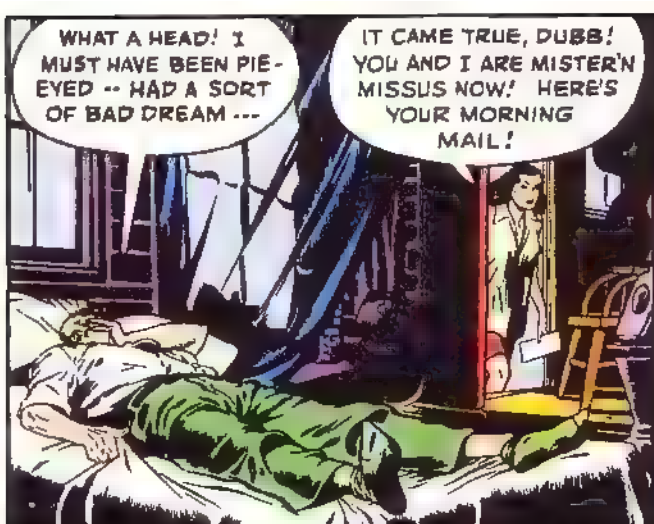
The shabby  
Swampwater  
section on  
the edge of  
Central City...

KINDA EARLY  
IN THE MORNING  
TO MAKE ALL THAT  
RACKET, HUH,  
SCROUNGY?

I'M LOOKING FOR  
DUBB WOOLCRAFT --  
HERE'S AN IMPORTANT  
LOOKING LETTER  
FOR HIM!

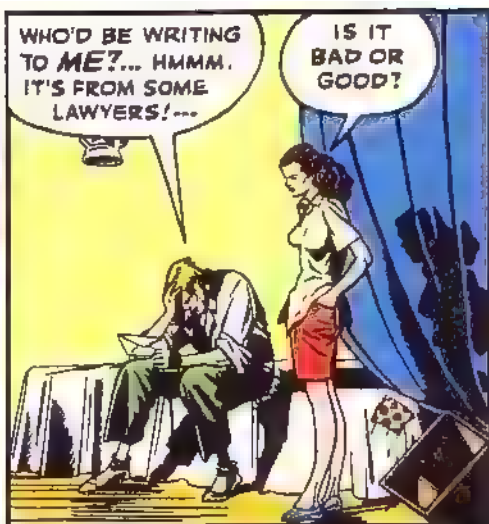
GIMME IT!  
ON ACCOUNT  
LAST NIGHT  
DUBB AND I GOT  
**MARRIED!**

THASSO, SISLEY?  
DON'T KNOW WHICH  
OF YOU TO  
COMPLIMENT--  
OR PITY!



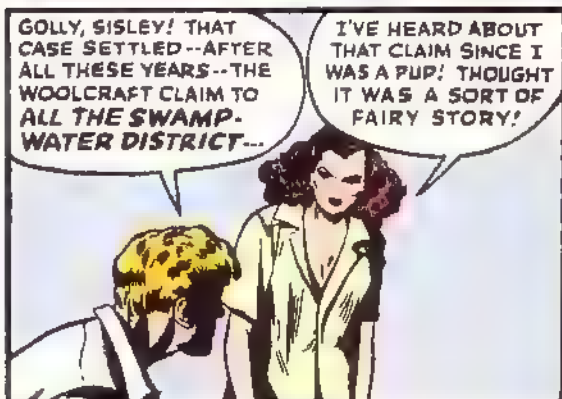
WHAT A HEAD! I MUST HAVE BEEN PIE-EYED -- HAD A SORT OF BAD DREAM ---

IT CAME TRUE, DUBB! YOU AND I ARE MISTER'N MISSUS NOW! HERE'S YOUR MORNING MAIL!



WHO'D BE WRITING TO ME?... HMMM. IT'S FROM SOME LAWYERS!---

IS IT BAD OR GOOD?



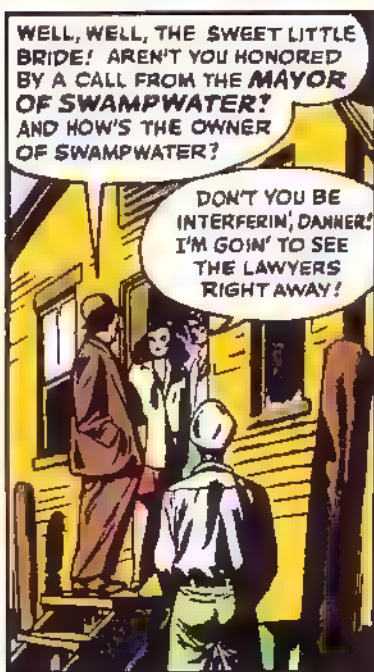
GOLLY, SISLEY! THAT CASE SETTLED--AFTER ALL THESE YEARS--THE WOOLCRAFT CLAIM TO ALL THE SWAMP-WATER DISTRICT---

I'VE HEARD ABOUT THAT CLAIM SINCE I WAS A PUP! THOUGHT IT WAS A SORT OF FAIRY STORY!



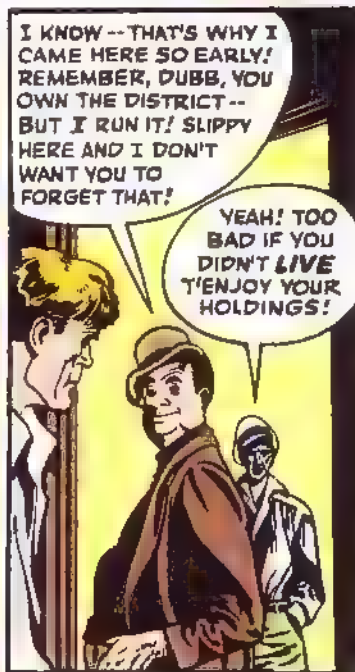
LOOK! LOOK! EVERY YARD OF LAND, EVERY HOUSE AND PIER -- **MINE!** I'M THE ONLY LIVING WOOLCRAFT!

NOT QUITE! I'M A WOOLCRAFT, TOO, BY MARRIAGE!... HMM, SOMEBODY KNOCKING!



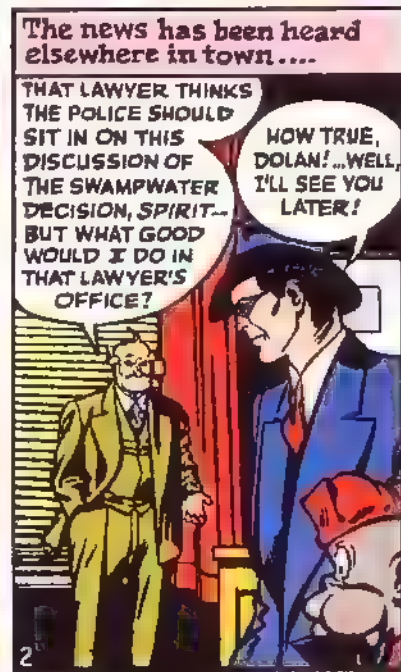
WELL, WELL, THE SWEET LITTLE BRIDE! AREN'T YOU HONORED BY A CALL FROM THE **MAYOR OF SWAMPWATER?** AND HOW'S THE OWNER OF SWAMPWATER?

DON'T YOU BE INTERFERIN', DANNER! I'M GOIN' TO SEE THE LAWYERS RIGHT AWAY!



I KNOW -- THAT'S WHY I CAME HERE SO EARLY! REMEMBER, DUBB, YOU OWN THE DISTRICT -- BUT I RUN IT! SLIPPY HERE AND I DON'T WANT YOU TO FORGET THAT!

YEAH! TOO BAD IF YOU DIDN'T **LIVE** T'ENJOY YOUR HOLDINGS!



The news has been heard elsewhere in town....

THAT LAWYER THINKS THE POLICE SHOULD SIT IN ON THIS DISCUSSION OF THE SWAMPWATER DECISION, SPIRIT-- BUT WHAT GOOD WOULD I DO IN THAT LAWYER'S OFFICE?

HOW TRUE, DOLAN!...WELL, I'LL SEE YOU LATER!



THAT'S THE PLACE, EBONY! LISTEN!...

SINCE YOU'RE MARRIED, YOU'D BOTH BETTER LISTEN TO MY PROPOSITION! SWAMPWATER CAN BE SOLD FOR A TIDY SUM---

YOU MEAN, THAT RUN-DOWN STRETCH OF MUD AND JUNK IS WORTH MONEY?

CENTRAL CITY IS GROWING ALL THE TIME! THE GROUND CAN BE RECLAIMED AND BUILDINGS ERECTED! I HAVE ALREADY SPOKEN TO PROSPECTIVE BUYERS!

RECLAIM SWAMPWATER-- WE'RE DEFINITELY INTERESTED, MR. WELKER!

SUPPOSE YOU LET **ME** DECIDE, SISLEY!

I'M YOUR WIFE-- I HAVE **HALF** THE SAY IN REAL ESTATE DEALS!

LET'S NOT QUARREL! I'LL DECIDE LATER-- **MYSELF!**

I'LL HAVE TO SHOW SISLEY WHO'S BOSS, OR I'M THROUGH---

**BANG! BANG!**

**MIST' SPIRIT BOSS! WAIT--**

I MAY BE TOO LATE AS IT IS!...

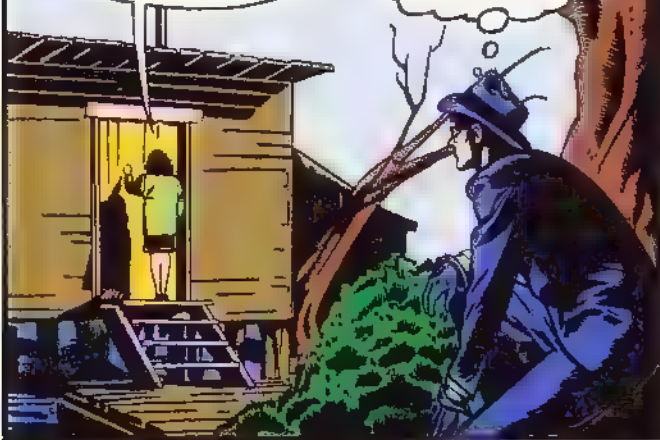
HE'S DEAD! DID YOU KILL HIM?

BUT HE'S MY **HUSBAND!** WHY SHOULD I KILL HIM?

The day sees a police investigation --and no decision! But that night in Swampwater, two figures are afoot!

OPEN THAT DOOR,  
DANNER! THIS IS  
SISLEY WOOLCRAFT!

DANNER--THE SO-CALLED  
MAYOR OF SWAMPWATER  
-- WHERE DOES  
HE FIT IN?



SISLEY,  
LET US  
EXPRESS OUR  
SORROW OVER  
THE UNTIMELY  
END OF---

BOTTLE IT UP!  
YOU KNEW HE  
MIGHT SELL  
SWAMPWATER--  
AND WHEN IT WAS  
CLEANED UP,  
SO WOULD  
YOU BE!



FOR YEARS YOU'VE  
HIDDEN OUT HERE,  
OPERATING THE  
RIVER PIRATE  
GANGS AND  
WATERFRONT  
ROBBERIES--

BETTER TALK NICE,  
SISLEY! SOMETHING  
MIGHT HAPPEN  
TO YA!



NO THREATS! LOOK---  
SOMEBODY'S BEEN FOLLOWING  
ME! HE'LL REPORT ANY  
ROUGH STUFF!

HE'S NO  
SWAMPWATER  
REGULAR!  
I'LL---



I'LL GIVE YOU  
TEN SECONDS TO  
GET OUTA  
SWAMPWATER!

YOU SOUND  
AS IF YOU'RE  
USED TO GIVING  
ORDERS--



WELL, YOU  
ORDERED  
THAT!





I'LL HELP YOU UP, AND WE CAN GO RIGHT ON FROM WHERE WE LEFT OFF--



NOW, LET'S TALK THIS---  
**UGH!**



GOOD, DANNER! LET THE TIDE CARRY HIM AWAY!



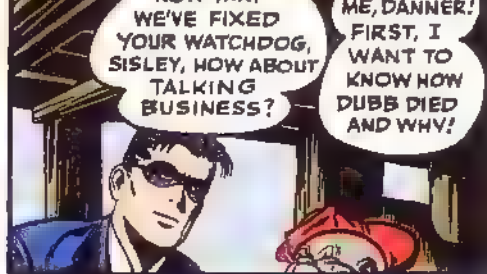
AH WAS WAITIN' DOWN HEAH, MIST' SPIRIT BOSS-- JEST IN CASE SUMPIN' LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN!



GOOD BOY, EBONY! ROW US UNDER DANNER'S SHACK!

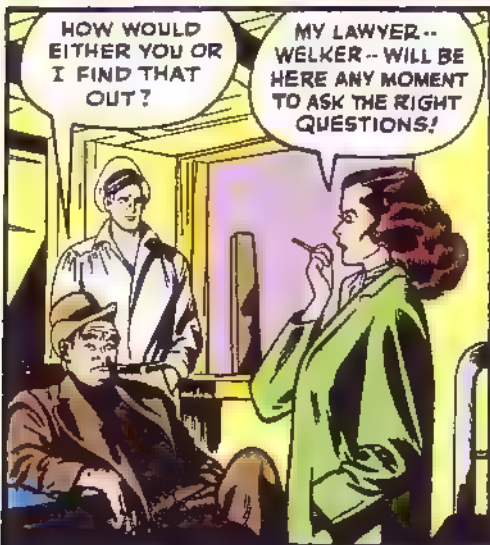
NOW THAT WE'VE FIXED YOUR WATCHDOG, SISLEY, HOW ABOUT TALKING BUSINESS?

SUITS ME, DANNER! FIRST, I WANT TO KNOW HOW DUBB DIED AND WHY!



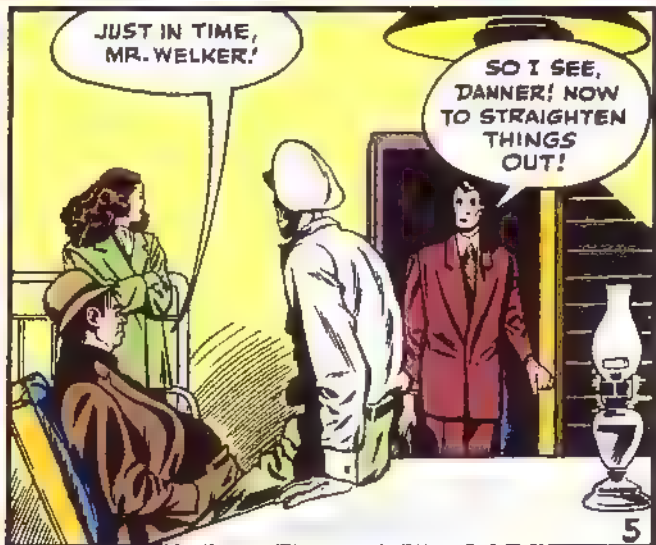
HOW WOULD EITHER YOU OR I FIND THAT OUT?

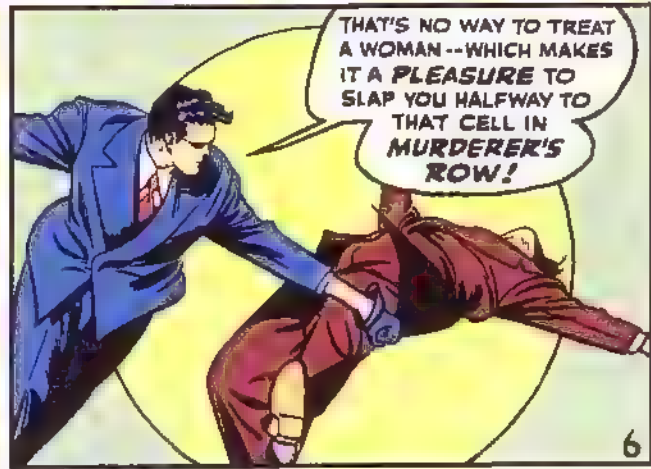
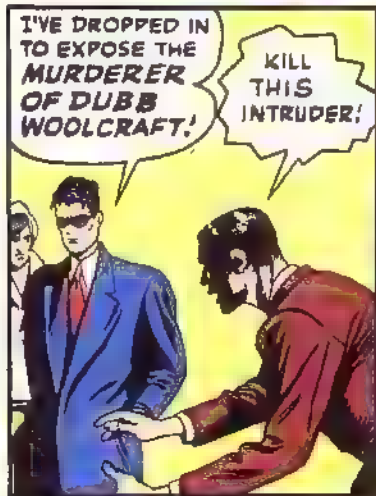
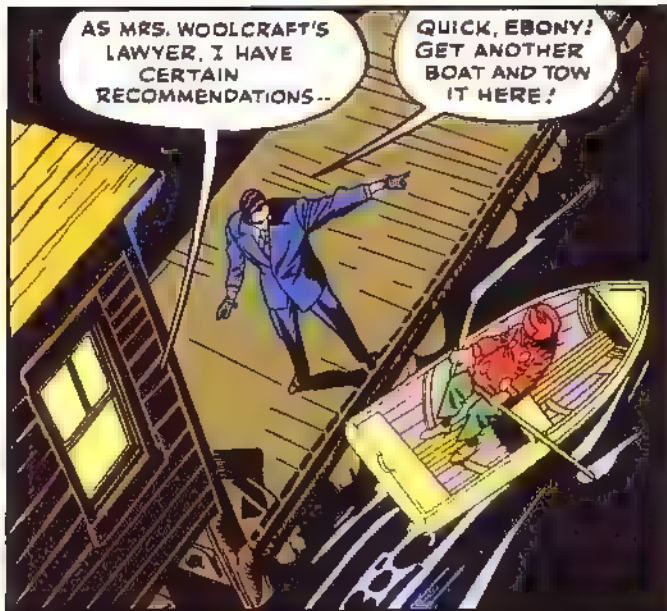
MY LAWYER-- WELKER-- WILL BE HERE ANY MOMENT TO ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS!



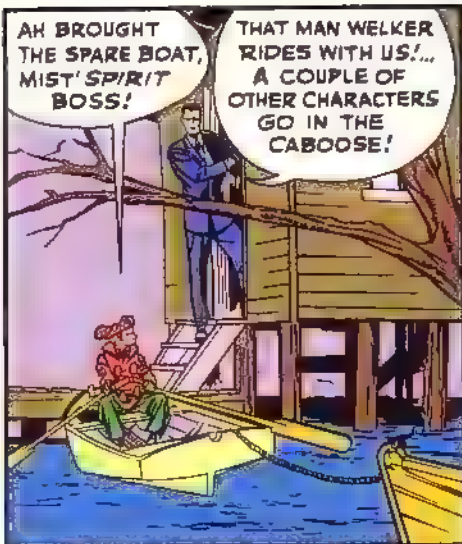
JUST IN TIME, MR. WELKER!

SO I SEE, DANNER! NOW TO STRAIGHTEN THINGS OUT!



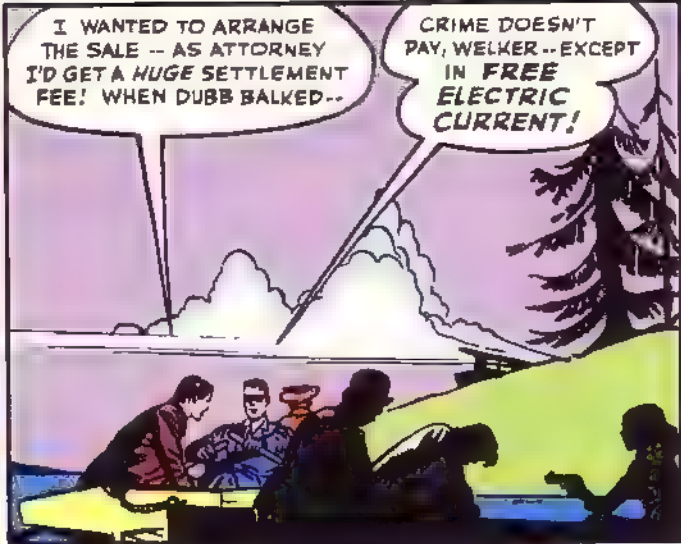






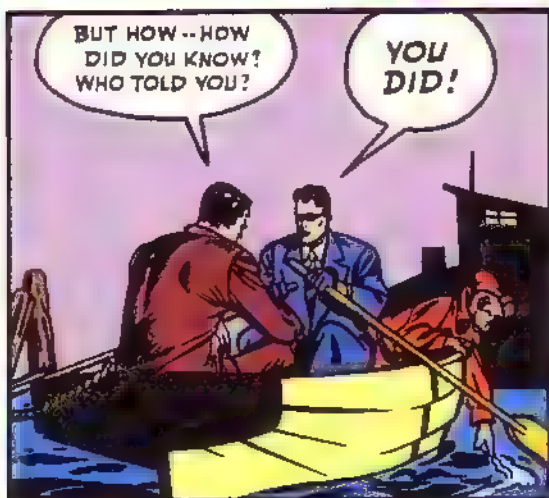
AH BROUGHT  
THE SPARE BOAT,  
MIST' SPIRIT  
BOSS!

THAT MAN WELKER  
RIDES WITH US!...  
A COUPLE OF  
OTHER CHARACTERS  
GO IN THE  
CABOOSE!



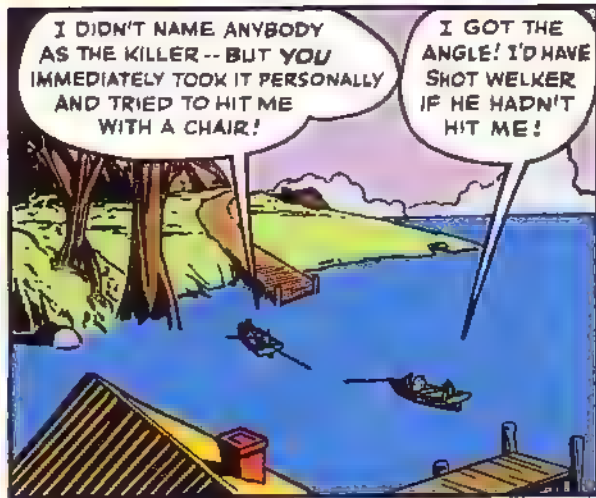
I WANTED TO ARRANGE  
THE SALE -- AS ATTORNEY  
I'D GET A HUGE SETTLEMENT  
FEE! WHEN DUBB BALKED--

CRIME DOESN'T  
PAY, WELKER--EXCEPT  
IN **FREE  
ELECTRIC  
CURRENT!**



BUT HOW--HOW  
DID YOU KNOW?  
WHO TOLD YOU?

**YOU  
DID!**



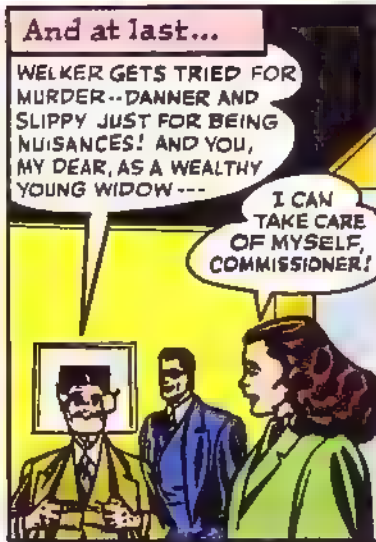
I DIDN'T NAME ANYBODY  
AS THE KILLER -- BUT **YOU**  
IMMEDIATELY TOOK IT PERSONALLY  
AND TRIED TO HIT ME  
WITH A CHAIR!

I GOT THE  
ANGLE! I'D HAVE  
SHOT WELKER  
IF HE HADN'T  
HIT ME!



SISLEY HADN'T  
NAMED **HER**  
SUSPECT, EITHER--  
AND YOU HIT  
**HER!** THAT  
CLINCHED IT!

**I QUIT!  
LOCK  
ME UP!**



**And at last...**

WELKER GETS TRIED FOR  
MURDER--DANNER AND  
SLIPPY JUST FOR BEING  
NUISANCES! AND YOU,  
MY DEAR, AS A WEALTHY  
YOUNG WIDOW---

**I CAN  
TAKE CARE  
OF MYSELF,  
COMMISSIONER!**



HMMM! I MIGHT  
VISIT SWAMPWATER  
MYSELF SOME  
FINE EVENING...

**HURRY BEFORE  
THEY TEAR IT  
UP FOR THOSE  
NEW BUILDINGS!  
MAYBE SISLEY  
WOOLCRAFT CAN  
STIR UP SOME  
EXCITEMENT  
FOR YOU!**

# SPiRiT

Police Commissioner Dolan must make strange decisions....

THIS IS MR. EXTER--  
NEW IN TOWN--WISHES  
TO CHECK WITH  
YOU, SIR!

YES, COMMISSIONER  
DOLAN! A RATHER  
PRIVATE FAMILY  
MATTER!

MMM -- SIGNED BY  
THE SUPERINTENDENT  
OF THE STATE HOSPITAL  
FOR THE INSANE ---

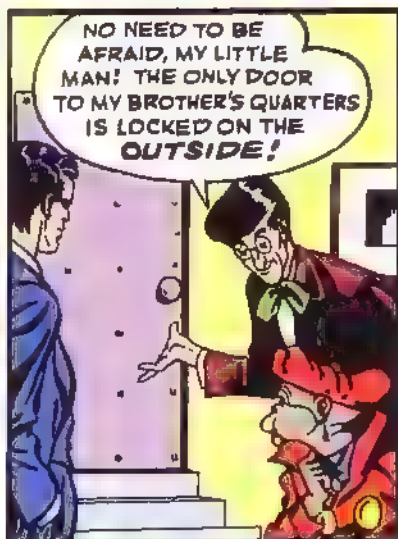
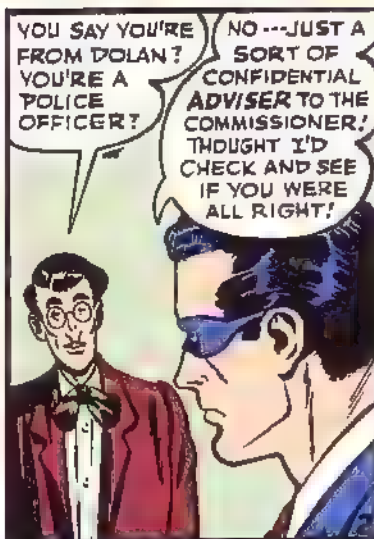
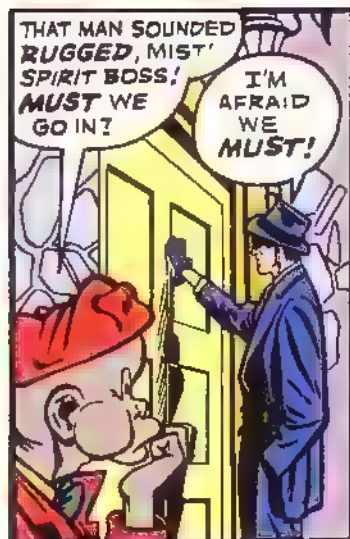
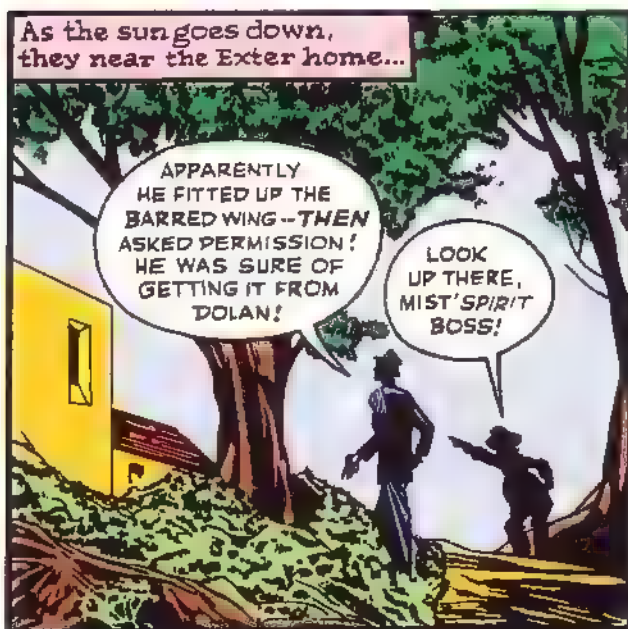
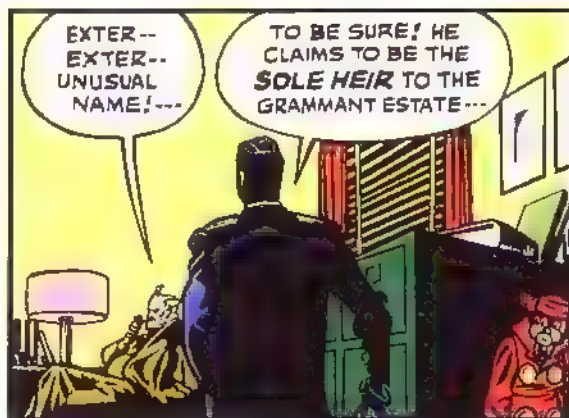
I WANT PERMISSION  
TO EQUIP ONE WING OF  
THE HOUSE AS A HOSPITAL  
WARD -- BARRED AND  
LOCKED ---

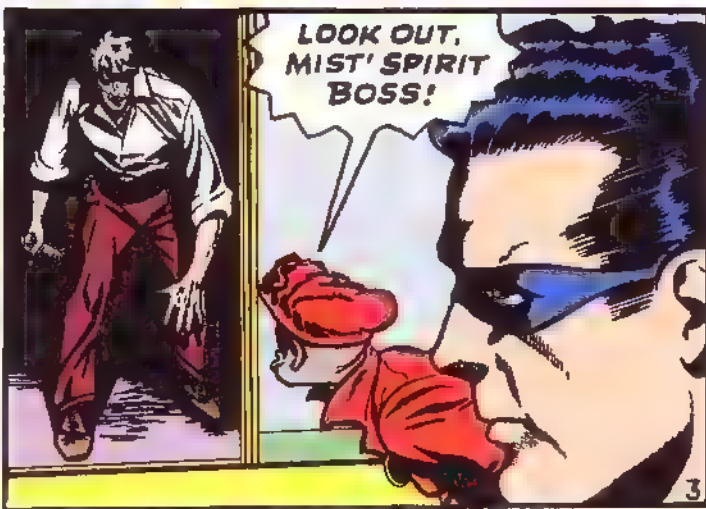
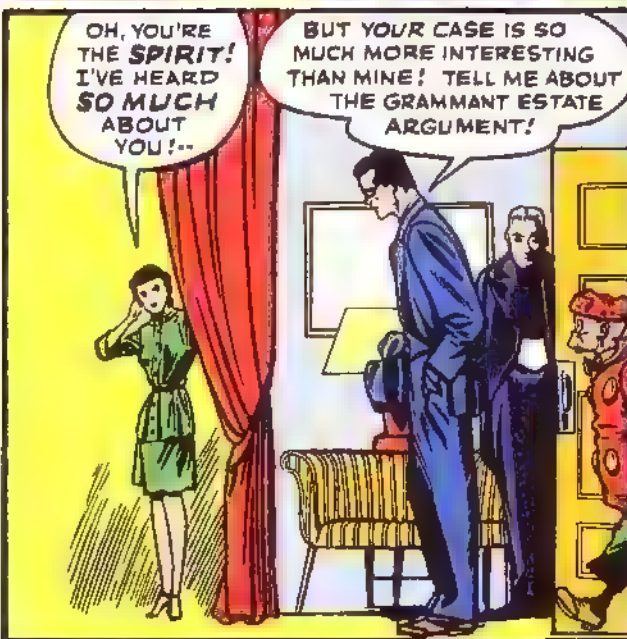
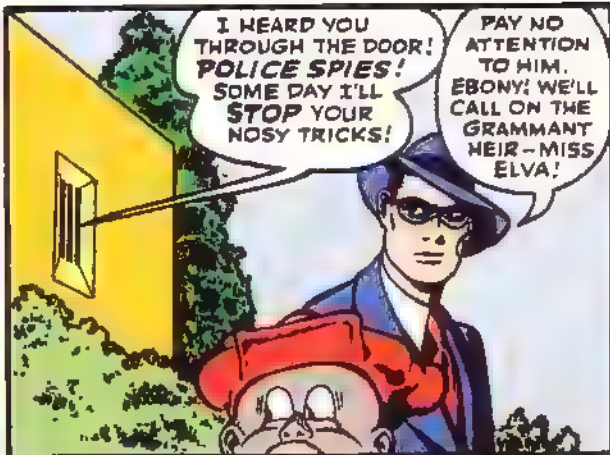
MY UNHAPPY  
TWIN BROTHER SUFFERS  
FROM A **VIOLENT MENTAL  
AILMENT!** THIS LETTER GIVES  
ME PERMISSION TO CARE FOR  
HIM IN MY HOME ---

VERY WELL,  
GO AHEAD!...  
WE'RE GLAD  
TO HELP,  
MR. EXTER!

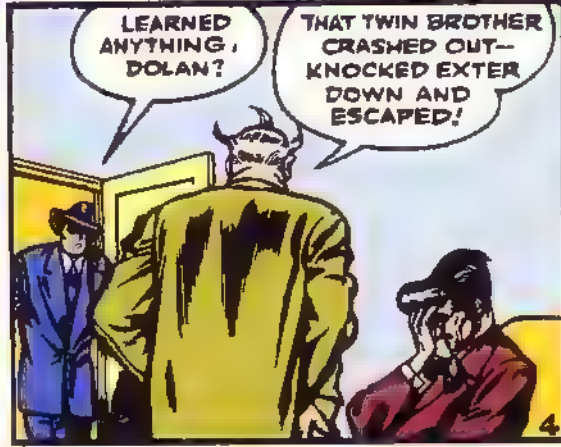
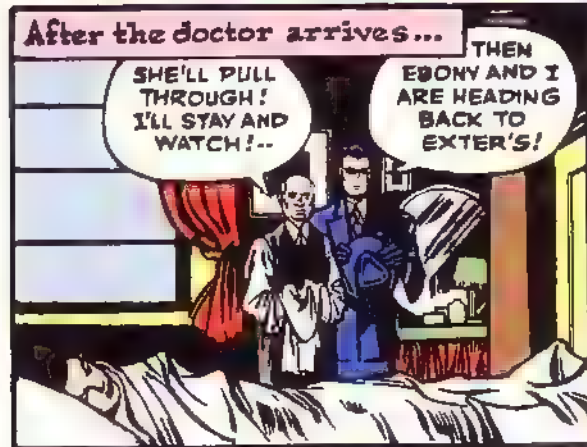
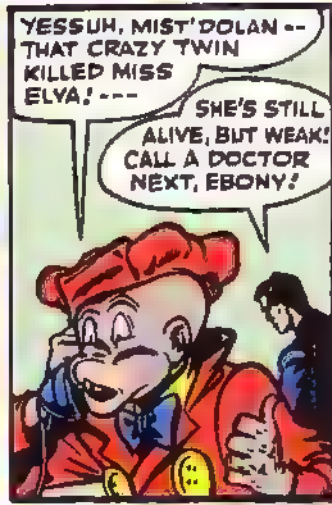
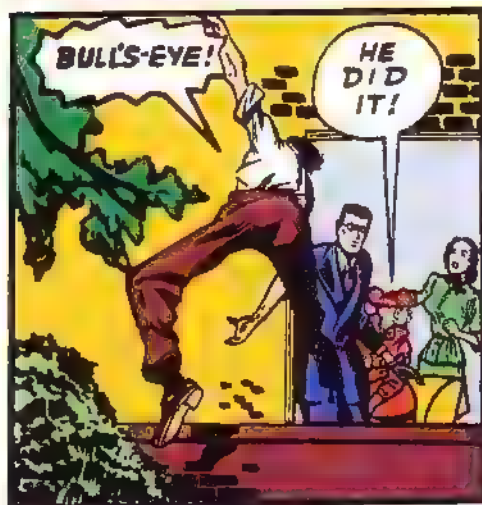


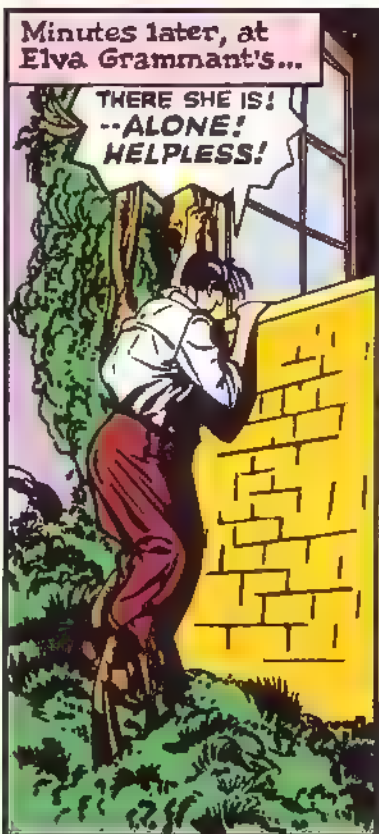




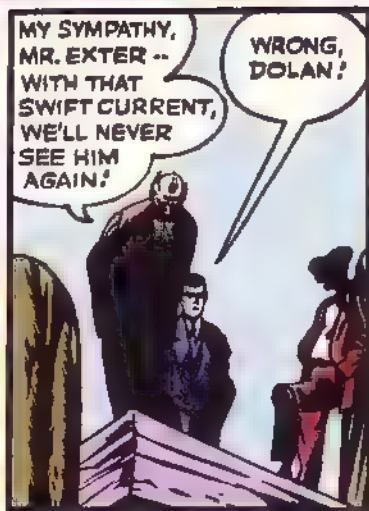
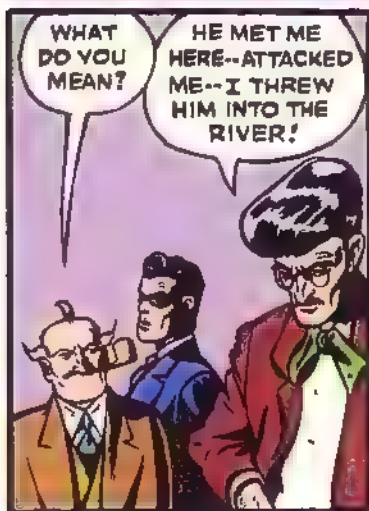
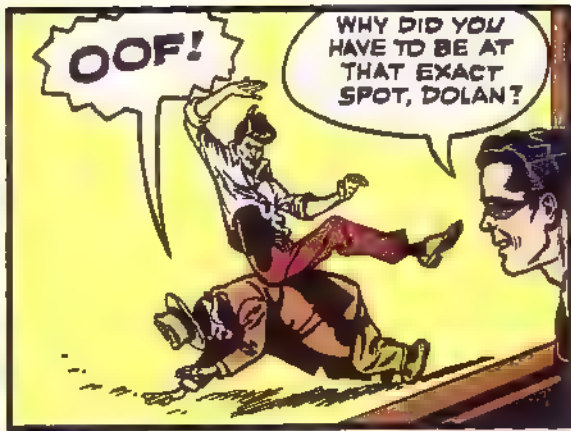












YOUR POOR TWIN BROTHER  
DIED! YOU NEVER HAD  
HIM IN THAT HOUSE! YOU  
MUSSED YOUR HAIR,  
DROPPED YOUR  
GLASSES AND  
IMPERSONATED  
HIM!

WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN?  
I COULDN'T..



THAT LETTER FROM THE  
ASYLUM WAS DATED  
**THREE YEARS AGO---**  
SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN,  
YOUR BROTHER DIED  
AND WAS QUIETLY  
BURIED!

WHY SHOULD  
MR. EXTER DO  
SUCH A THING,  
SPIRIT?



TO KILL HIS COUSIN  
ELVA! THEN HE'D  
INHERIT THE  
GRAMMANT  
MONEY!

YOU KNOW  
ALL THE  
ANSWERS,  
DON'T YOU?



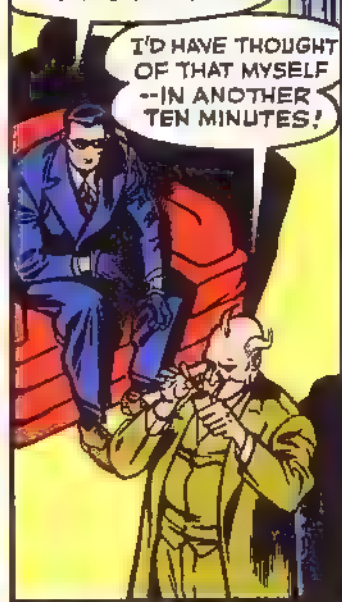
IT'S ALL SIMPLE, ONCE  
YOU TELL US, SPIRIT!  
BUT WHY DID YOU  
**FIRST SUSPECT?**

THAT WAS  
SIMPLEST  
OF ALL!



REMEMBER, EXTER  
CLAIMED THE ESTATE IN  
COURT! HE FOUGHT  
ELVA'S CLAIM--BUT  
NEVER **MENTIONED**  
A LIVING BROTHER!

I'D HAVE THOUGHT  
OF THAT MYSELF  
--IN ANOTHER  
TEN MINUTES!



SO THERE'S  
NO MYSTERY  
LEFT UNSOLVED  
IN OUR CASE,  
EH, SPIRIT?

JUST ONE!  
WHY DO  
YOU CALL  
IT **OUR**  
CASE?



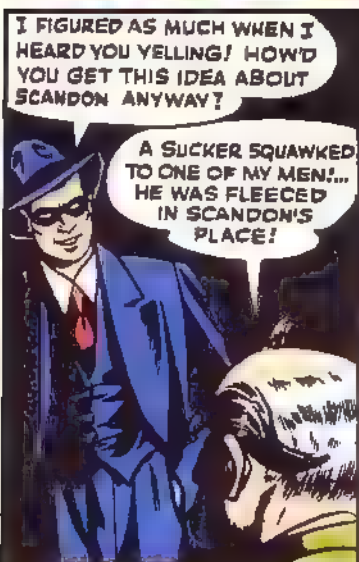
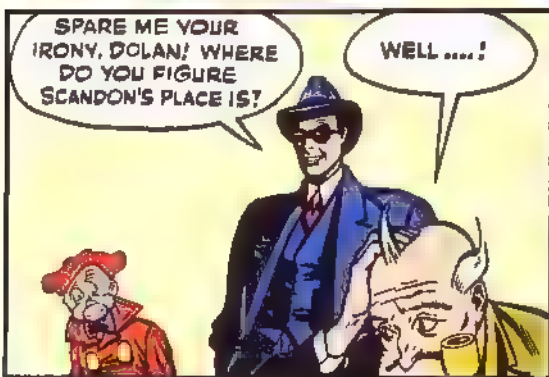
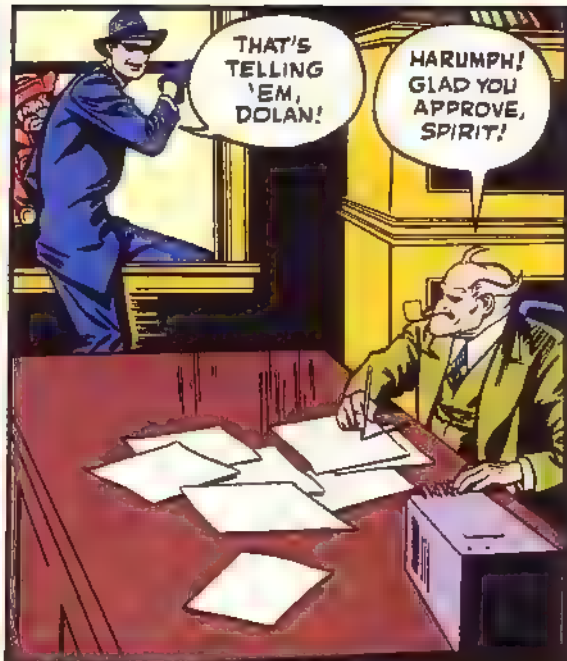




I KNOW THAT  
RED SCANDON IS  
OUT OF JAIL AND THAT  
HE'S OPERATING A  
GAMBLING DIVE  
SOMEWHERE IN  
CENTRAL CITY!

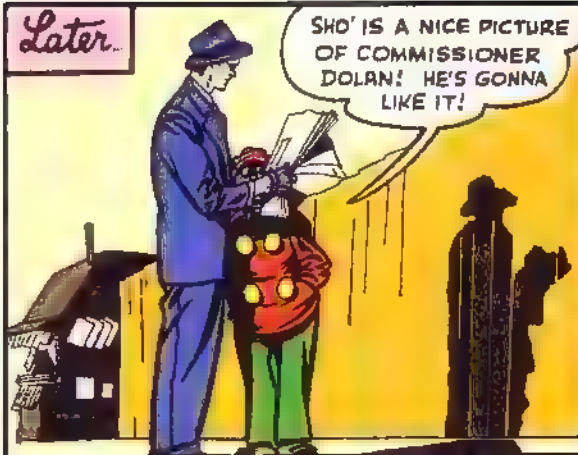
AND WHAT'S MORE, I'M  
GOING TO FIND HIM, WRECK  
HIS DIVE, AND SEND HIM BACK  
TO JAIL WHERE HE BELONGS!

MAY WE  
PRINT THAT,  
COMMISSIONER?

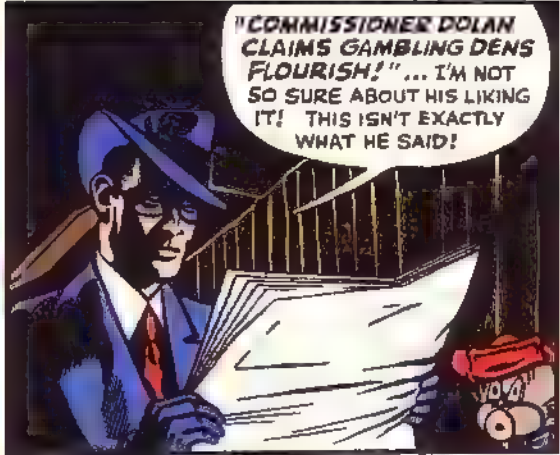




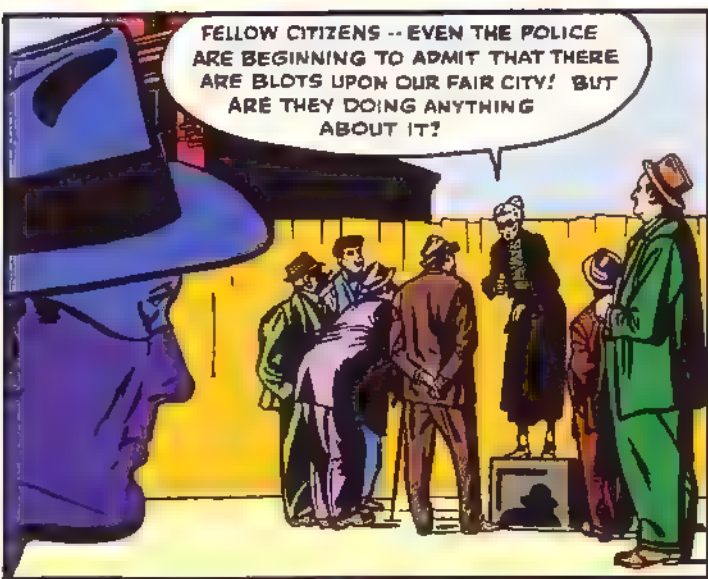
Later...



SHO' IS A NICE PICTURE  
OF COMMISSIONER  
DOLAN! HE'S GONNA  
LIKE IT!



"COMMISSIONER DOLAN  
CLAIMS GAMBLING DENS  
FLOURISH!" ... I'M NOT  
SO SURE ABOUT HIS LIKING  
IT! THIS ISN'T EXACTLY  
WHAT HE SAID!



FELLOW CITIZENS -- EVEN THE POLICE  
ARE BEGINNING TO ADMIT THAT THERE  
ARE BLOTS UPON OUR FAIR CITY! BUT  
ARE THEY DOING ANYTHING  
ABOUT IT?



NO!...BUT I'M  
GOING TO DO  
SOMETHING ABOUT  
IT! JUST WATCH  
ME!

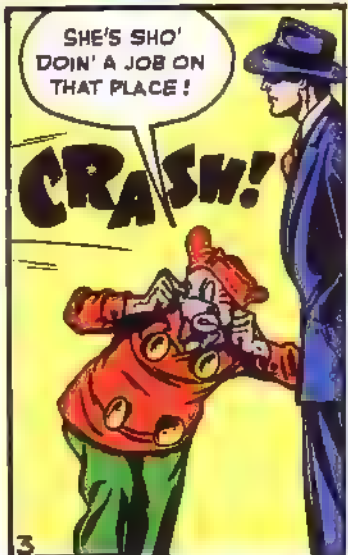


THERE'S AN  
EXAMPLE!  
**BINGO  
GAMES!**

"TONIGHT"  
**BIG  
BINGO  
GAME**  
FOR BENEFIT  
OF  
NORTHERN  
HOSPITAL

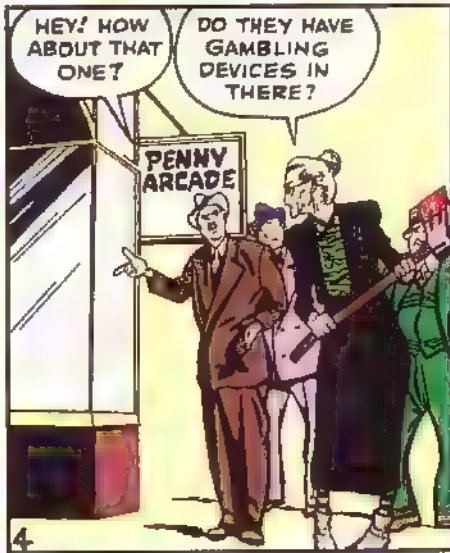
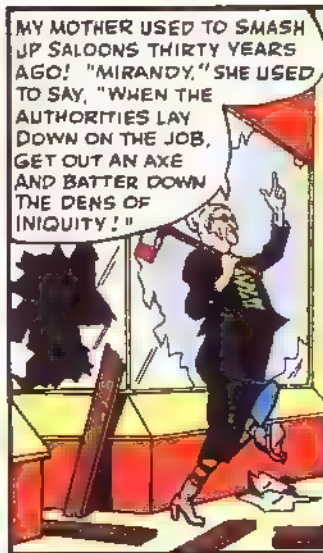
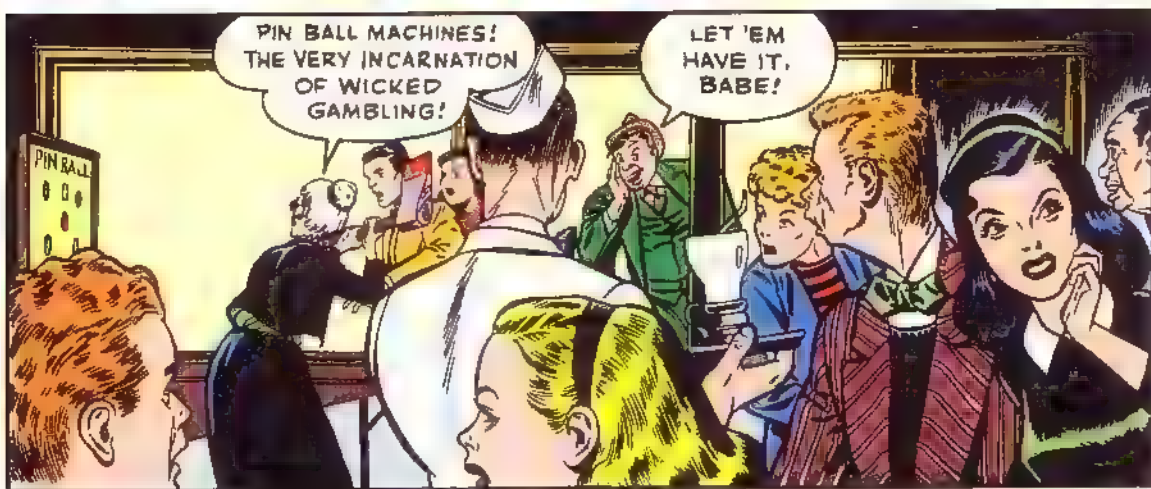
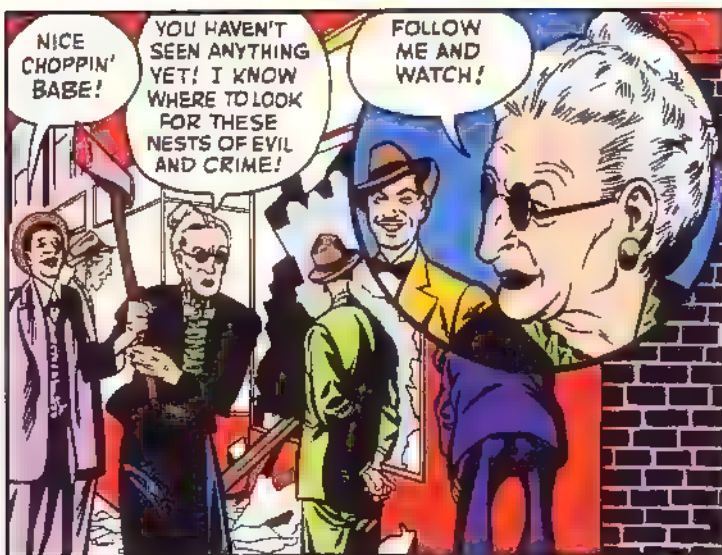


**DOWN WITH  
GAMBLING!**

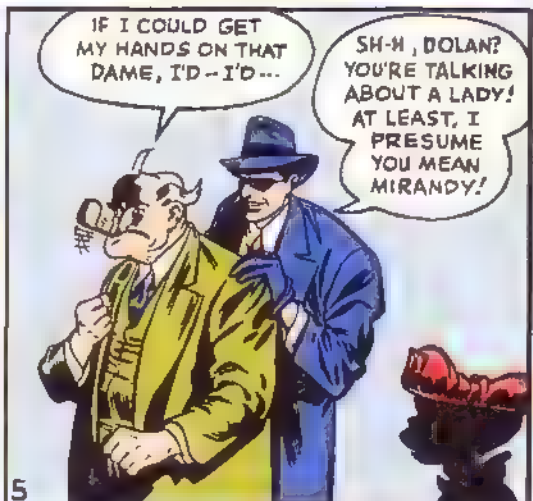
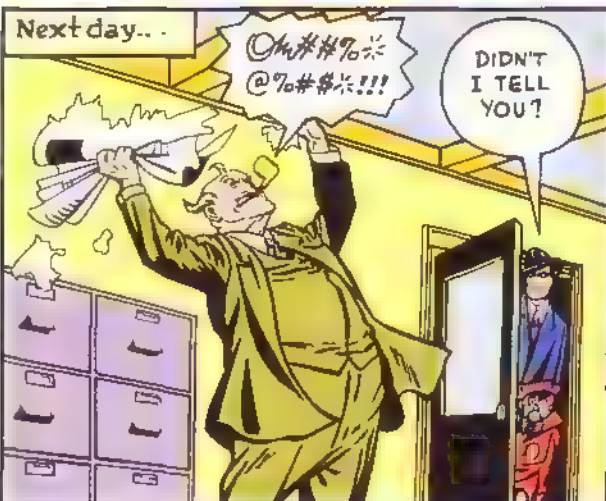
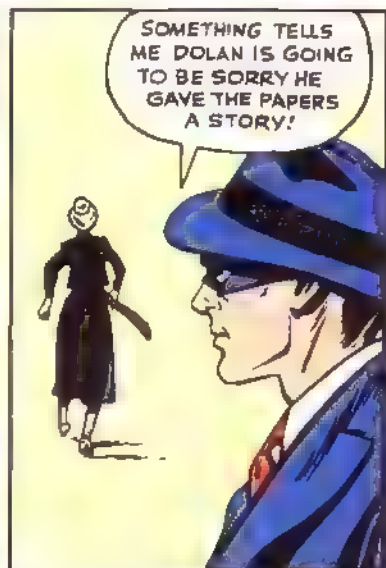
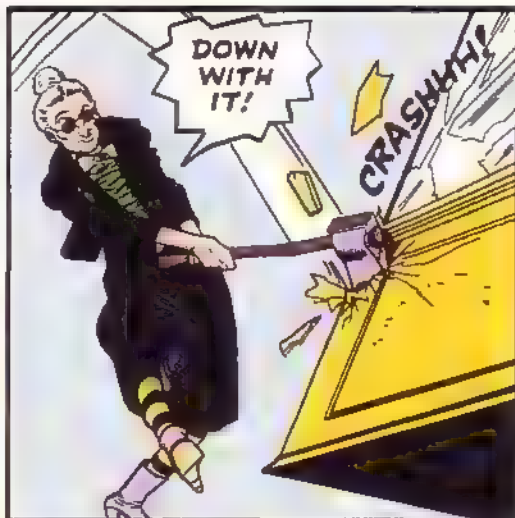
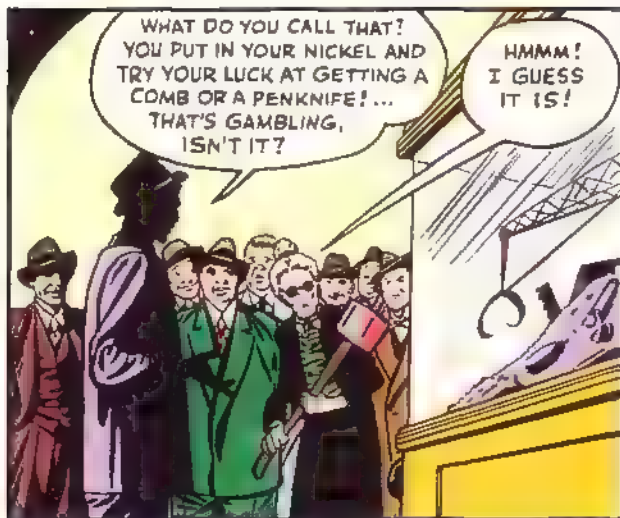


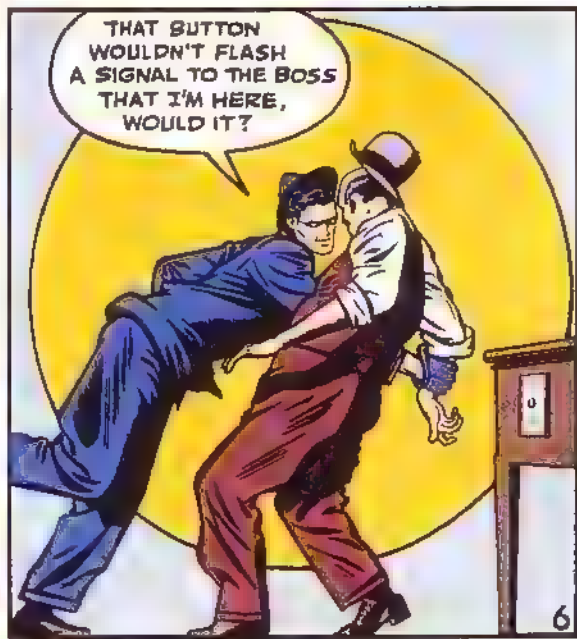
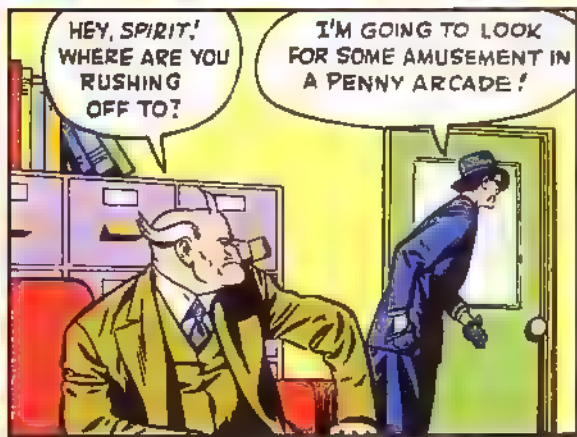
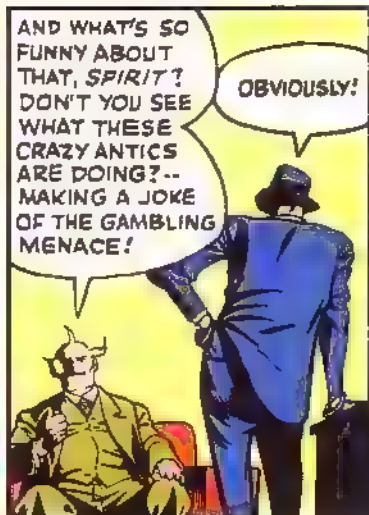
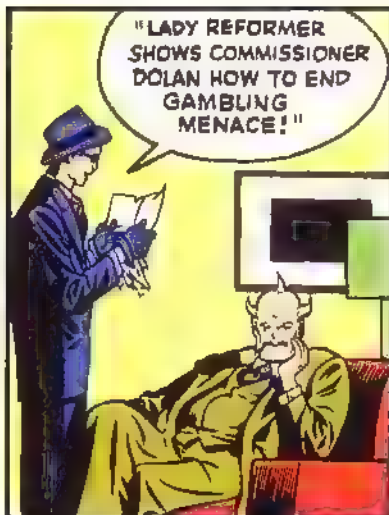
SHE'S SHO'  
DOIN' A JOB ON  
THAT PLACE!

**CRASH!**

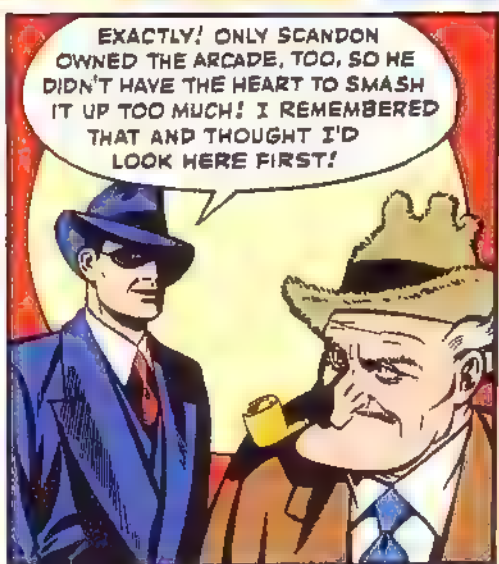
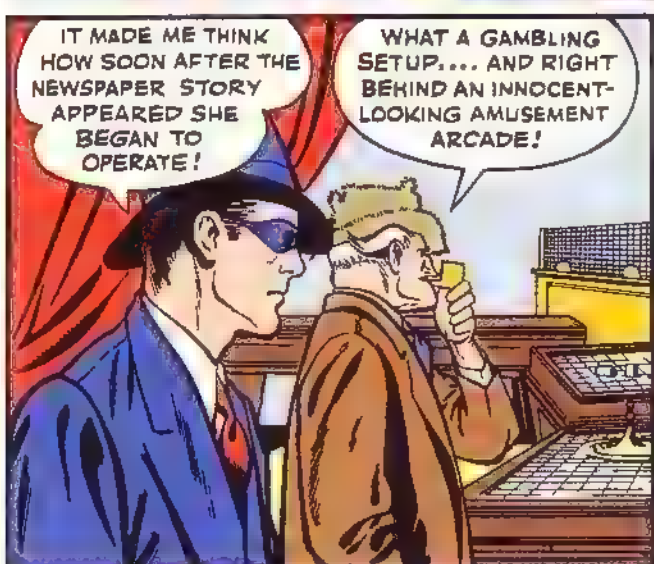
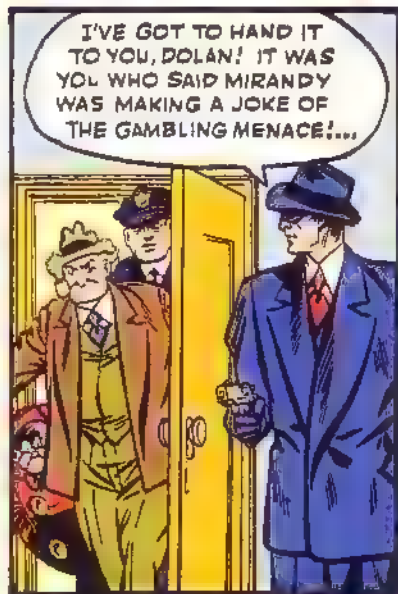
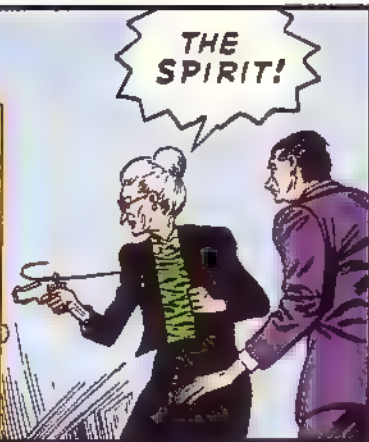
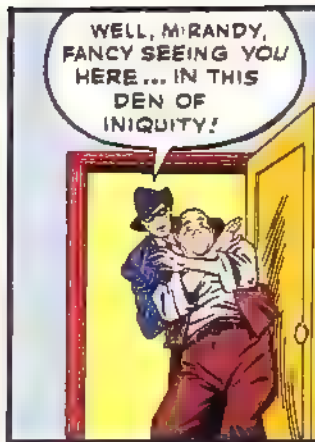












# THE SPIRIT

An afternoon call on  
Ellen Dolan, daughter of  
the Police Commissioner....

SPIRIT, YOU  
MUST MEET MISS  
ROSALIND RIPSLEY!  
SHE'S A MEMBER  
OF A GREAT  
COLONIAL  
FAMILY....

AH, YES...THE  
ONLY DESCENDANT  
OF GENERAL RIPSLEY...  
WASHINGTON'S  
**BEST**  
OFFICER!

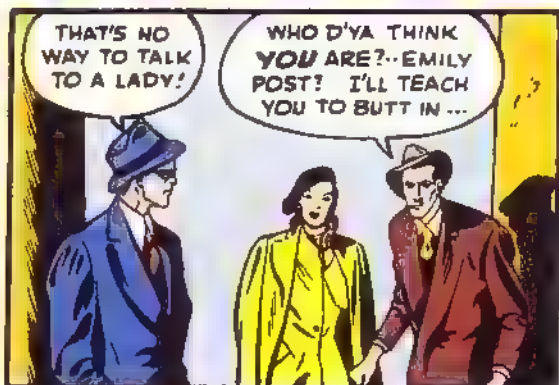
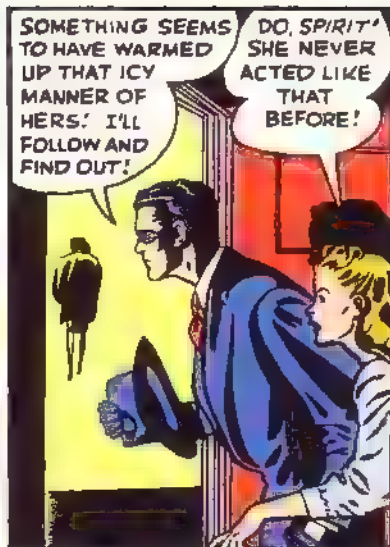
I'M A SORT  
OF **MODERN**  
MINUTE MAN,  
MISS RIPSLEY!

THOSE MINUTE MEN  
WERE **SO** COMMON!  
MERE RAGGLE-TAGGLE  
**ENLISTED**  
FELLOWS ...

--NO RIPSLEY  
EVER RANKED  
BELOW A  
**MAJOR!**

A GEMMUN  
JEST LEF' THIS  
MESSAGE  
FO' MISS  
RIPSLEY!







HE'S A **DEAR OLD FRIEND!** AND WE WERE DISCUSSING **PRIVATE BUSINESS!**

THAT'S TELLING HIM OFF, BABE! LET'S GO TALK SOMEWHERE ELSE!



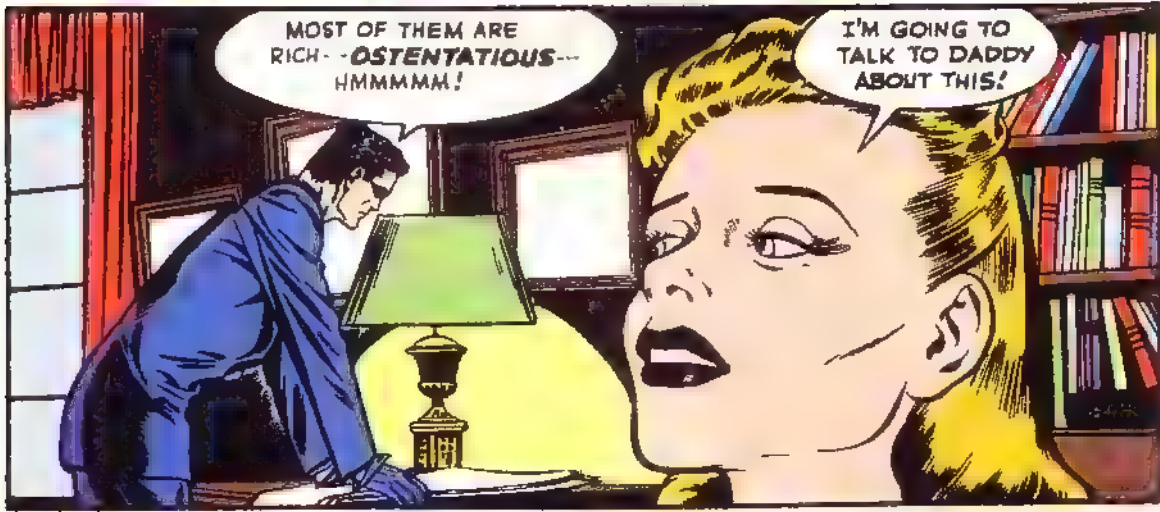
DID AH MISS THE FUN, MIST' SPIRIT BOSS?

IT WAS RATHER FUNNY, EBONY, BUT NOT EXACTLY **AMUSING!**



The next day...  
STRANGE! ROSALIND SEEMS TO BE GIVING A PARTY--AND THESE GUESTS AREN'T EXACTLY **COLONIAL DAMES**...

THAT FRIEND OF HERS--HASPER--ISN'T THE FOUNDING FATHER TYPE, EITHER!



MOST OF THEM ARE RICH--**OSTENTATIOUS**--  
HMMMMM!

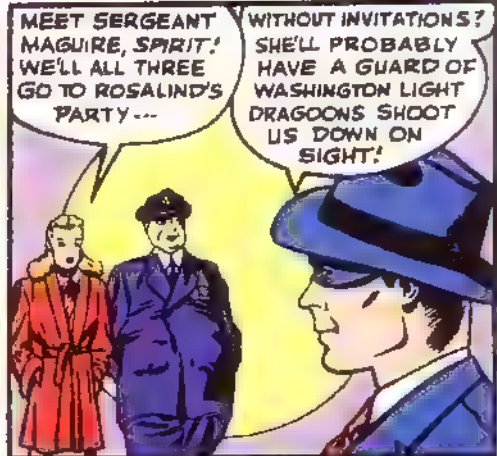
I'M GOING TO TALK TO DADDY ABOUT THIS!



But for **ONCE IN A LIFETIME**, Commissioner Dolan doesn't leave his desk....

I'M UP TO MY EARS IN ORGANIZATION WORK, ELLEN! I'LL ASSIGN SERGEANT MAGUIRE TO THE CASE....

SURE AND BEGOG, MISS ELLEN! 'TIS GLAD I'LL BE TO HELP YE!



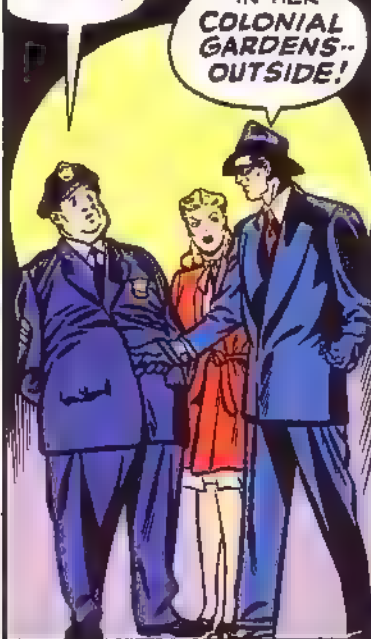
MEET SERGEANT MAGUIRE, SPIRIT! WE'LL ALL THREE GO TO ROSALIND'S PARTY--

WITHOUT INVITATIONS? SHE'LL PROBABLY HAVE A GUARD OF WASHINGTON LIGHT DRAGONS SHOOT US DOWN ON SIGHT!



'TIS TRUE--AND IF WE **PUSHED** IN, 'TWOULD BE THE CRIME O' HOUSE-BREAKIN'!

BUT IT'S NOT IN A HOUSE! MISS RIPSLEY IS ENTERTAINING IN HER **COLONIAL GARDENS--OUTSIDE!**



HURRY! THE PARTY'S IN FULL SWING!

**SWING** SOUNDS OUT OF PLACE! SHOULDN'T A FIFE-AND-DRUM CORPS BE PLAYING?



SHE HAS BIG WALLS WITH SPIKES ON TOP TO KEEP **MEER** PEOPLE OUT!

SOUNDS LIKE FUN, DOESN'T IT?



THIS IS THE **SAME CHERRY**. TREE THAT GEORGE WASHINGTON CHOPPED DOWN!

PRETTY HEALTHY SPECIMEN, MISS RIPSLEY-- CONSIDERING IT WAS ONCE CUT IN TWO!



HAVE NO FEAR! I'M STANDIN' SOLID AS THE GLORY OF OLD IRELAND---

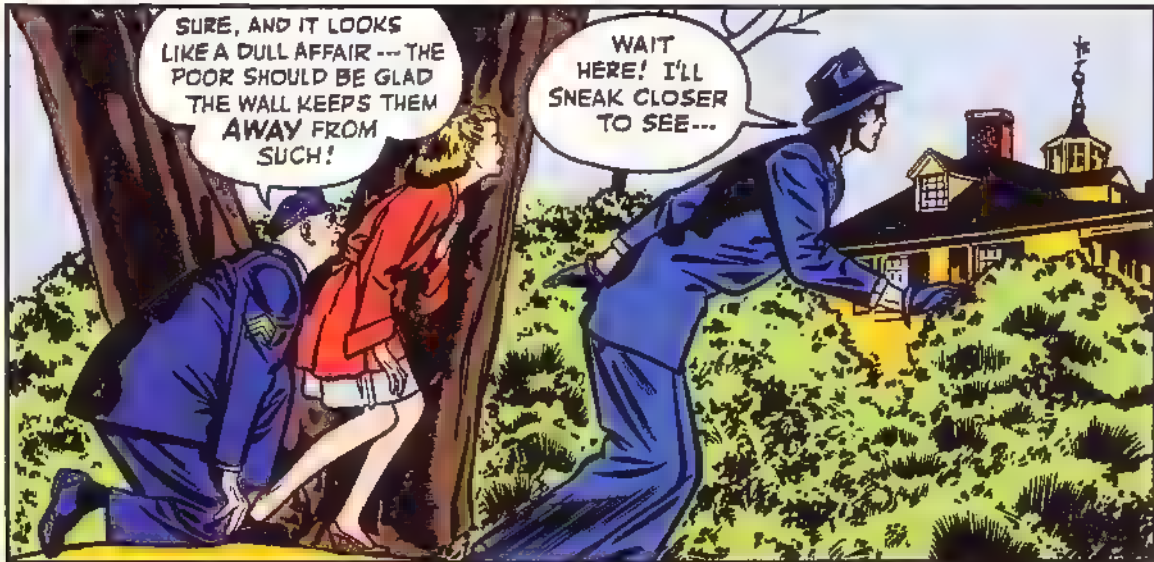
--THE MENTION OF WHICH SHOULD MAKE THIS COLLEEN FLY OVER THE WALL LIKE A BIRD!



AH, YES, BUT TREE SURGEONS WERE **GENIUSES** THEN!

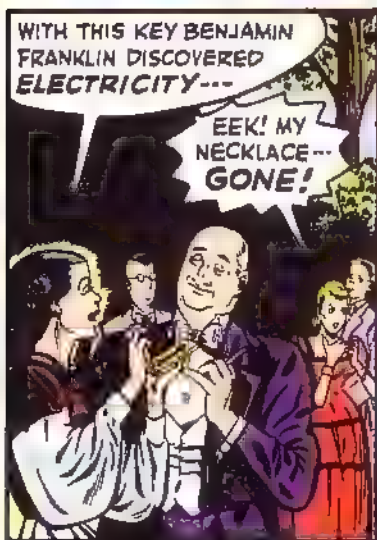
REMARKABLE!





SURE, AND IT LOOKS LIKE A DULL AFFAIR --- THE POOR SHOULD BE GLAD THE WALL KEEPS THEM AWAY FROM SUCH!

WAIT HERE! I'LL SNEAK CLOSER TO SEE---



WITH THIS KEY BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DISCOVERED ELECTRICITY---

ECK! MY NECKLACE--- GONE!



MY WALLET'S STOLEN, TOO!

AND MY WATCH!... THERE ARE THIEVES IN THIS GARDEN!



WHY--IT CAN'T BE-- WAIT AND FIND OUT---

WAIT, NOTHING! SOMEONE'S MOVING IN THOSE BUSHES!



HERE'S THE THIEF.. HIDING IN THESE BUSHES!

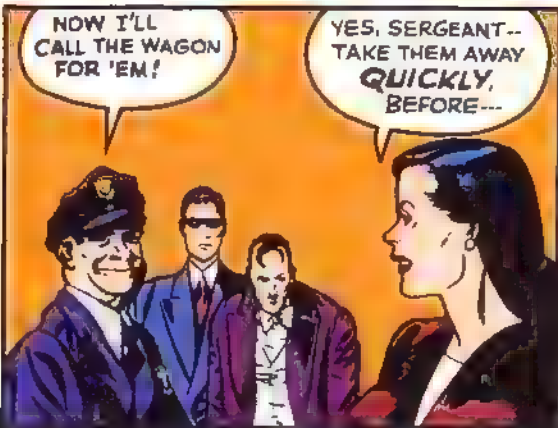
WHY--WHY... THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE!

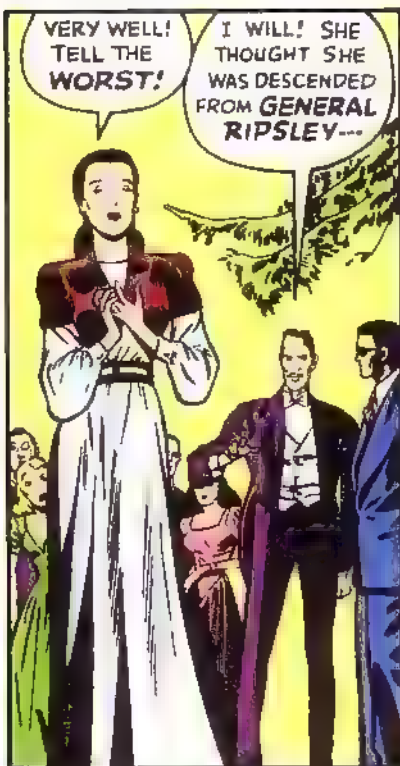


NO MISTAKE, MISS RIPLEY! SHALL I TELL ALL I KNOW?

IT'S THAT NOSY GUY I TOLD YOU ABOUT! C'MON, LET'S GO INTO OUR ACT!

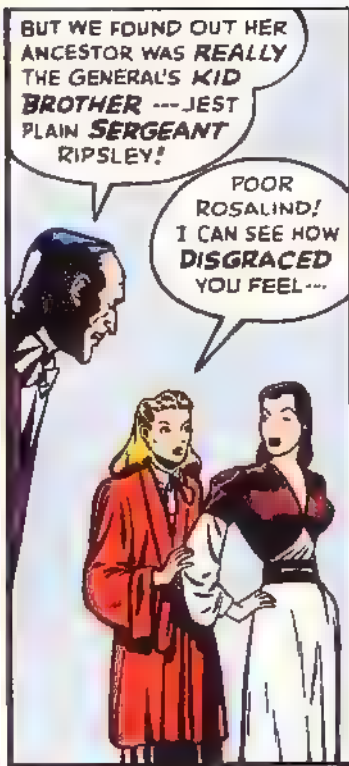






VERY WELL!  
TELL THE  
WORST!

I WILL! SHE  
THOUGHT SHE  
WAS DESCENDED  
FROM **GENERAL  
RIPSLEY**---



BUT WE FOUND OUT HER  
ANCESTOR WAS **REALLY**  
THE **GENERAL'S KID  
BROTHER** --- JUST  
PLAIN **SERGEANT  
RIPSLEY!**

POOR  
ROSALIND!  
I CAN SEE HOW  
**DISGRACED**  
YOU FEEL---



**DISGRACED? NO! I'VE  
CHANGED MY MIND  
ABOUT SERGEANTS!**

ARE YOU  
KIDDING?



FOR INSTANCE,  
WHO CAN BE  
NOBLER THAN  
**SERGEANT  
MAGUIRE?**

WHO...  
ME?



MEETING SUCH A MAN,  
I CAN BE **PROUD** THAT  
I HAVE **SERGEANT  
BLOOD** IN MY  
VEINS!

AW, I  
BET YOU  
TELL THAT TO  
ALL THE  
SERGEANTS!



WE NOT ONLY  
CRACKED A  
CRIME CASE,  
BUT BROUGHT  
ROSALIND  
DOWN OFF  
HER HIGH  
HORSE!

BUT MAGUIRE'S  
DUE FOR  
PROMOTION TO  
**LIEUTENANT!**  
THEN SHE MAY  
NOT LIKE HIM  
ANY MORE!



June 17 1945

HELP!  
HELP!  
HELP!

THE  
**SPIRIT**

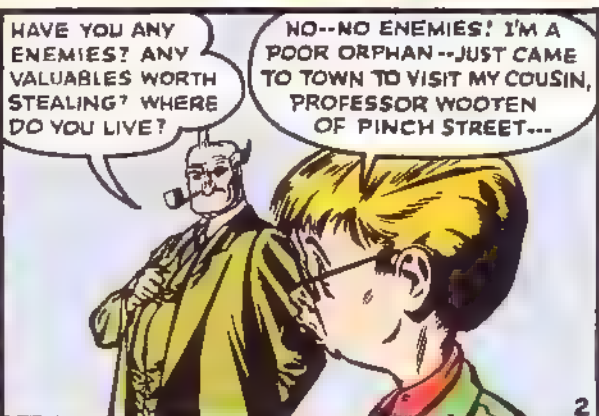
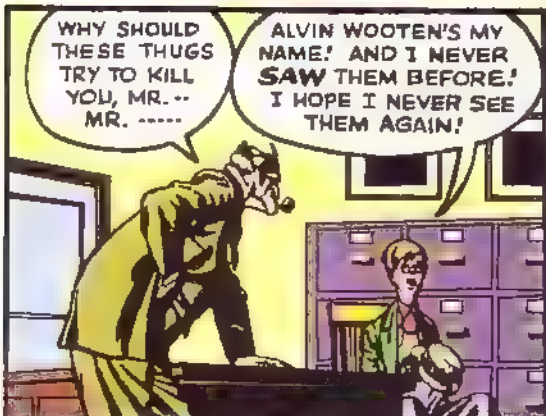
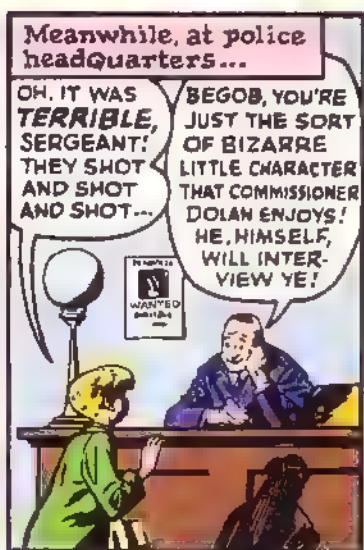
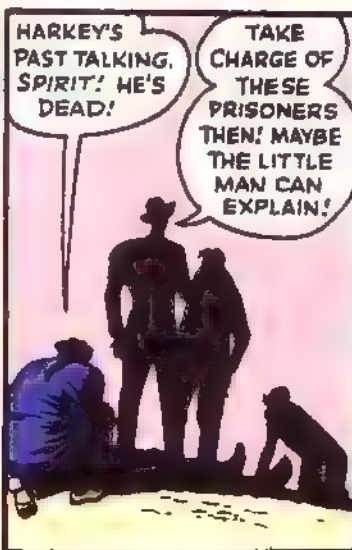
BLAST HIM,  
YOU FOOLS!  
HE'LL WAKE UP  
THE WHOLE  
NEIGHBOR-  
HOOD!

EXCUSE ME--  
I MEAN,  
SAVE  
ME!

I DON'T KNOW  
YOU, FRIEND--  
BUT YOU SEEM  
TO BE IN  
TROUBLE!

RUN ON --POLICE  
HEADQUARTERS  
NEXT BLOCK!  
I'LL DEAL WITH  
THESE ---

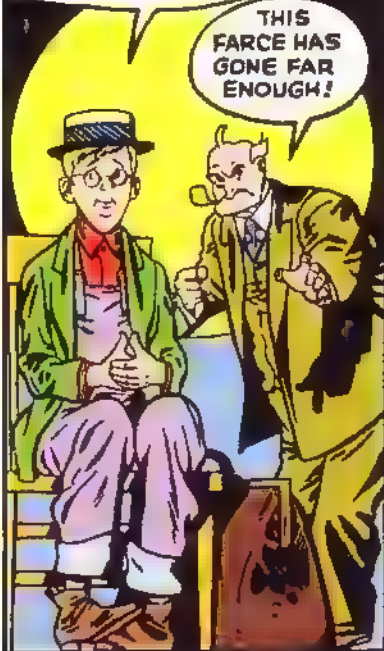
THE  
SPIRIT!  
BLAST  
HIM!





THEY'D HAVE SHOT ME TO SHREDS --IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR A BIG HANDSOME MAN IN A MASK, WHO TACKLED THEM, ALL THREE ---

THIS FARCE HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH!



YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE FOOLS OF THE POLICE WITH YOUR SILLY STORIES!

YES, SIR-- I MEAN, NO, SIR!



GET OUT! IF I SEE YOU AGAIN, I'LL LOCK YOU UP AS A CRAZY MAN!

I'M GOING, MR. DOLAN! GOODBYE!



WHAT A PREPOSTEROUS STORY--ESPECIALLY ABOUT THAT MASKED HERO WHO SAVED HIM!

PLEASE, DOLAN, YOU MAKE ME BLUSH WHEN YOU CALL ME A HERO!



SPIRIT! YOU--YOU MEAN, IT'S TRUE ABOUT THAT ATTEMPT TO KILL THE LITTLE SQUIRT?

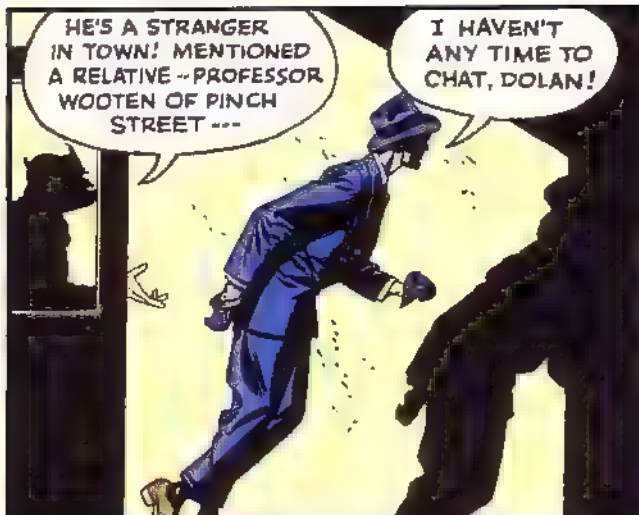
TRUE AS GOSPEL! LET ME TALK TO HIM!



BUT-- BUT HE'S GONE! I ORDERED HIM OUT!

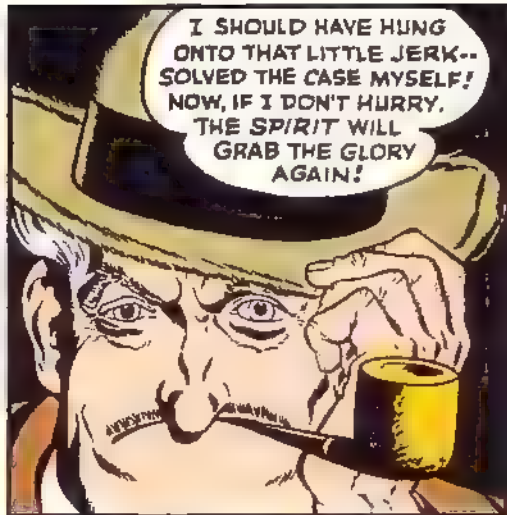
WHERE DID HE GO? ... HE MAY BE IN WORSE DANGER STILL!





HE'S A STRANGER  
IN TOWN! MENTIONED  
A RELATIVE -- PROFESSOR  
WOOTEN OF PINCH  
STREET ---

I HAVEN'T  
ANY TIME TO  
CHAT, DOLAN!



I SHOULD HAVE HUNG  
ONTO THAT LITTLE JERK--  
SOLVED THE CASE MYSELF!  
NOW, IF I DON'T HURRY,  
THE SPIRIT WILL  
GRAB THE GLORY  
AGAIN!



On Pinch Street...

WHO'S  
OUT  
THERE?

IT'S ME,  
COUSIN  
PROFESSOR--  
I MEAN, IT'S  
I---ALVIN!



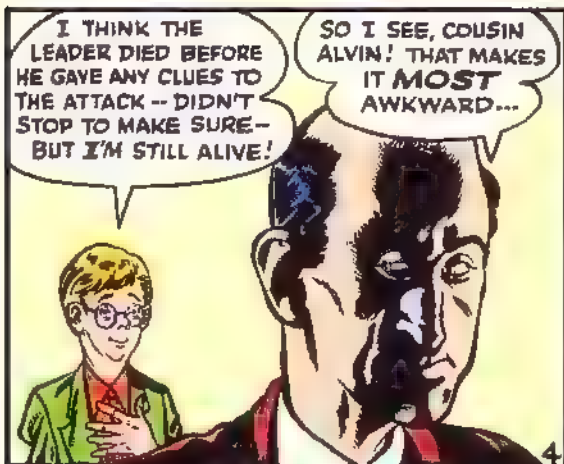
COME IN, COUSIN  
ALVIN! I HOPE  
YOU DIDN'T HAVE  
A BORESOME  
TRIP!

OH, NO,  
COUSIN  
PROFESSOR!  
QUITE THE  
CONTRARY!  
**AWFUL!  
DIRE!**



TELL ME  
ABOUT IT,  
COUSIN  
ALVIN!

THREE FEROCIOUS  
MALEFACTORS  
ATTACKED ME  
AS I GOT OFF  
THE TRAIN! GUNS  
AND ALL THAT! BUT  
A MAGNIFICENT  
STRANGER HEADED  
THEM OFF ---



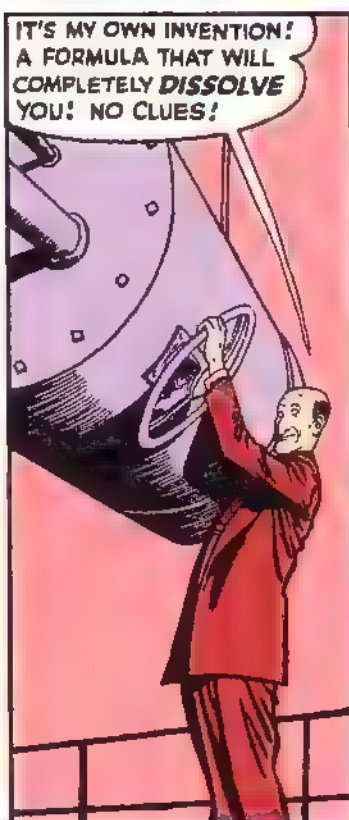
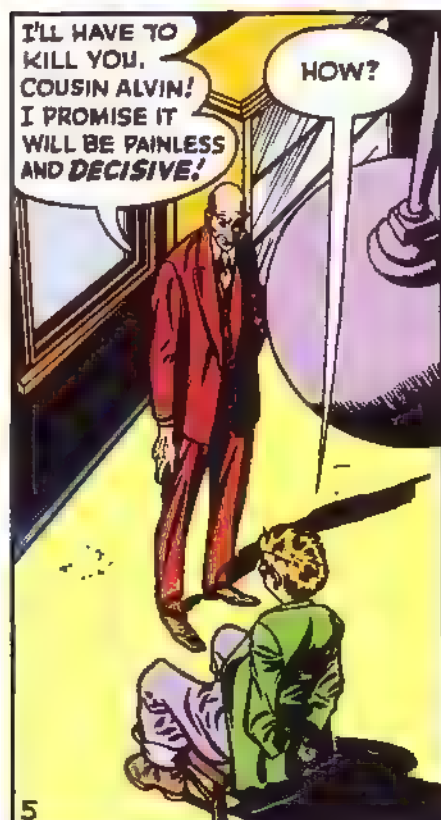
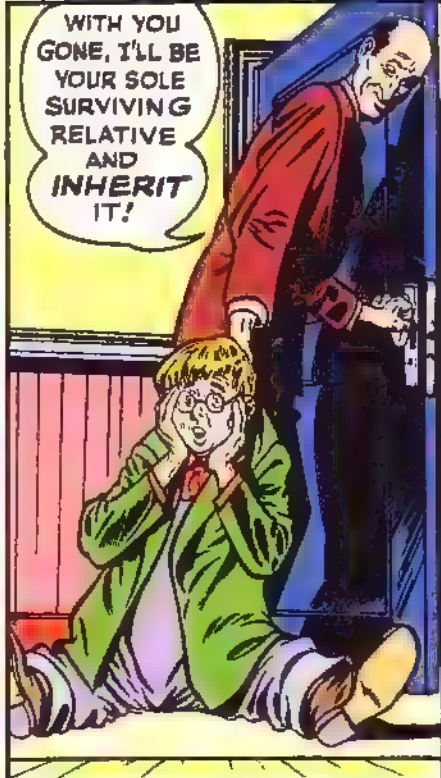
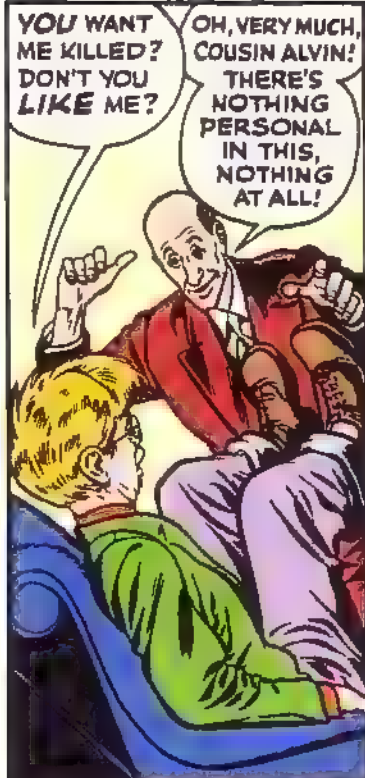
I THINK THE  
LEADER DIED BEFORE  
HE GAVE ANY CLUES TO  
THE ATTACK -- DIDN'T  
STOP TO MAKE SURE--  
BUT I'M STILL ALIVE!

SO I SEE, COUSIN  
ALVIN! THAT MAKES  
IT **MOST**  
AWKWARD...



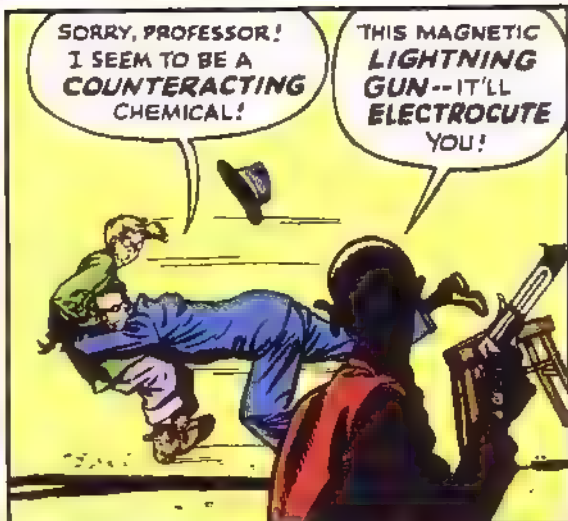
YOU SEE, I  
HIRED THEM TO  
KILL YOU!





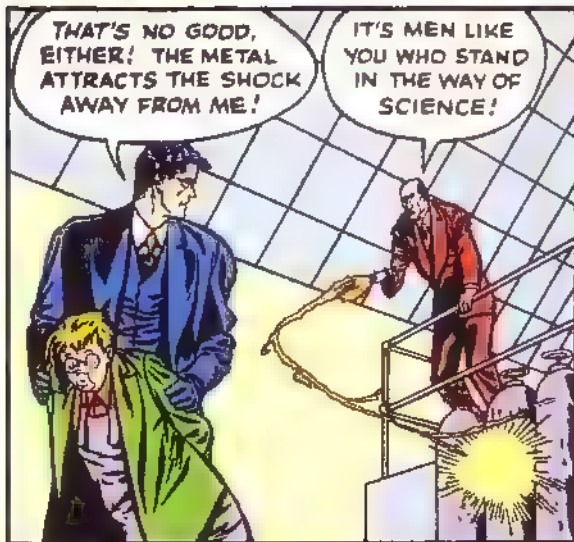


NOW, ALVIN --  
MY DE LUXE SHOWER  
BATH!



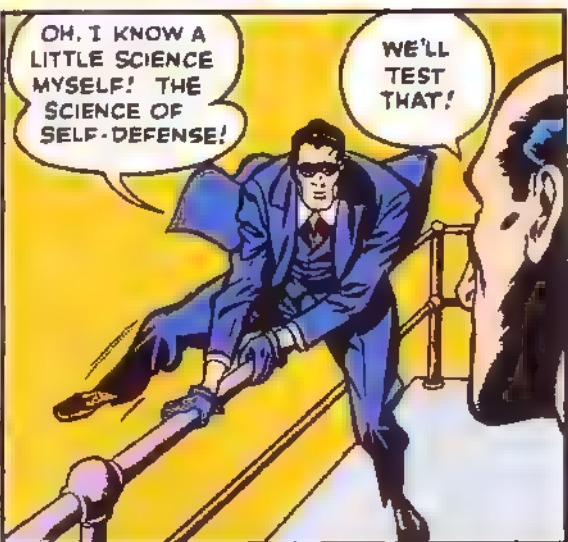
SORRY, PROFESSOR!  
I SEEM TO BE A  
COUNTERACTING  
CHEMICAL!

THIS MAGNETIC  
LIGHTNING  
GUN--IT'LL  
ELECTROCUTE  
YOU!



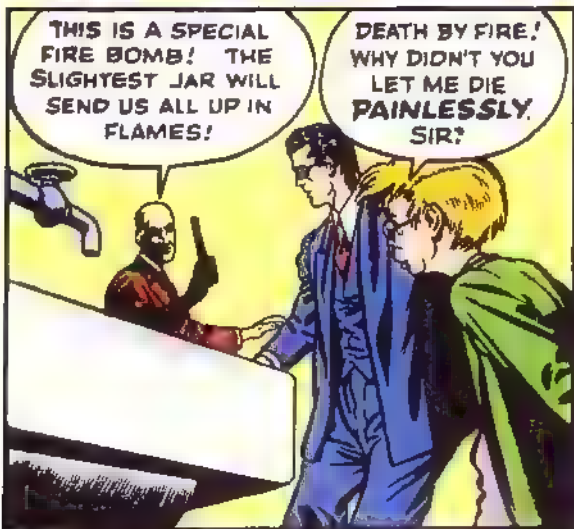
THAT'S NO GOOD,  
EITHER! THE METAL  
ATTRACTS THE SHOCK  
AWAY FROM ME!

IT'S MEN LIKE  
YOU WHO STAND  
IN THE WAY OF  
SCIENCE!



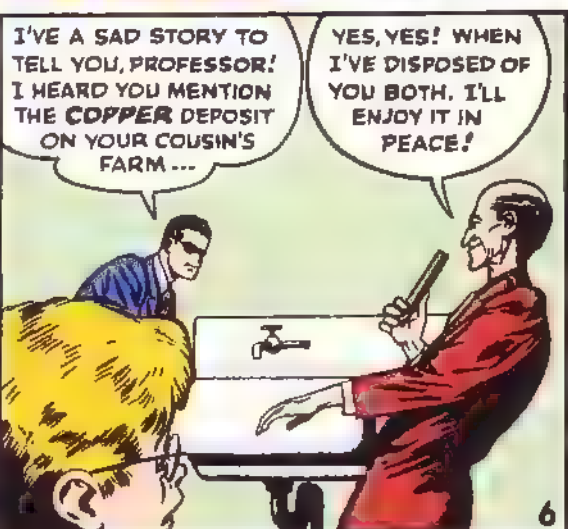
OH, I KNOW A  
LITTLE SCIENCE  
MYSELF! THE  
SCIENCE OF  
SELF-DEFENSE!

WE'LL  
TEST  
THAT!



THIS IS A SPECIAL  
FIRE BOMB! THE  
SLIGHTEST JAR WILL  
SEND US ALL UP IN  
FLAMES!

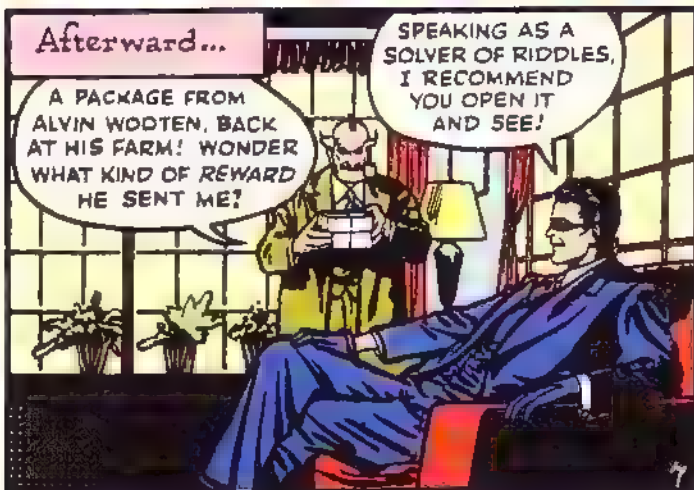
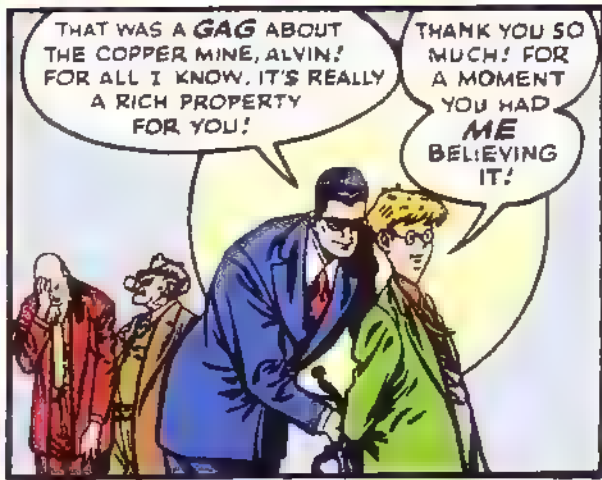
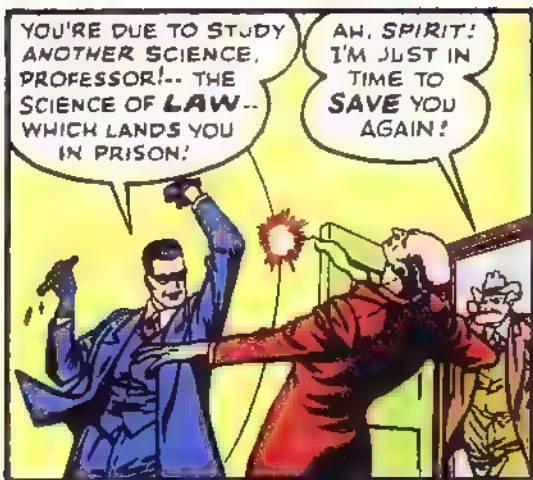
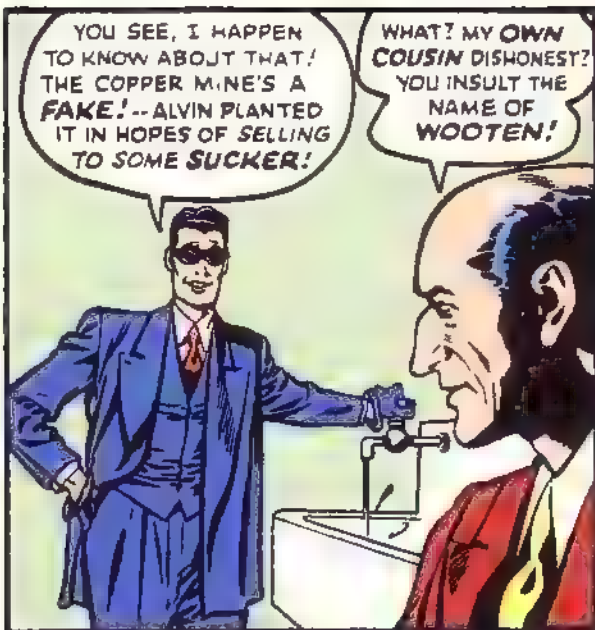
DEATH BY FIRE!  
WHY DIDN'T YOU  
LET ME DIE  
PAINLESSLY,  
SIR?



I'VE A SAD STORY TO  
TELL YOU, PROFESSOR!  
I HEARD YOU MENTION  
THE COPPER DEPOSIT  
ON YOUR COUSIN'S  
FARM ...

YES, YES! WHEN  
I'VE DISPOSED OF  
YOU BOTH, I'LL  
ENJOY IT IN  
PEACE!





# THE SPIRIT

At certain experimental greenhouses in Central City...

SURE, YOU'RE THE BOSS, DOVER-- BUT **MUST** WE MEET AT THIS PLACE?

WE MUST INDEED, CARPY!

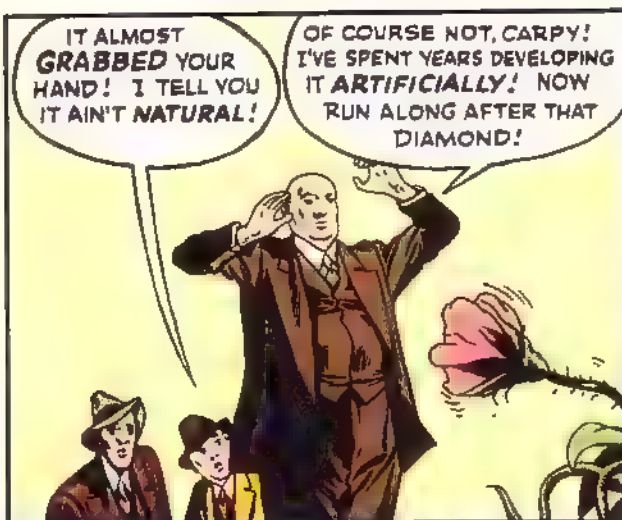
FEEDING THAT CREEPY THING AGAIN --WITH **RAW** MEAT? IT GIVES ME THE WILLIES!

CONTROL YOURSELF, CARPY, AND LISTEN TO ORDERS!

WHAT I WANT IS THE **WHITLOCK DIAMOND**-- IT'S WORTH A FORTUNE! THE LADY'S ALONE TONIGHT, AND ---

LOOK OUT, DOVER!



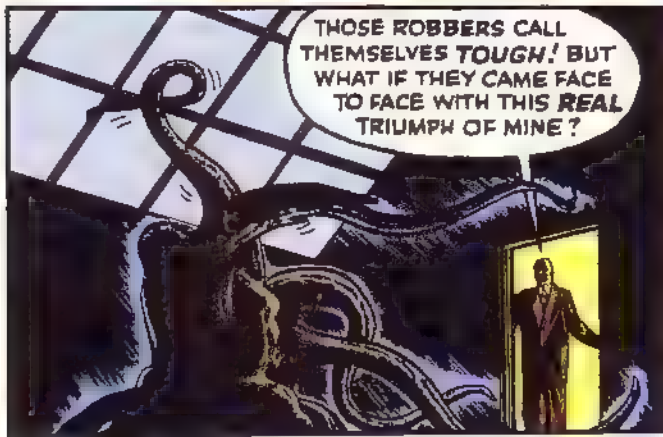


IT ALMOST GRABBED YOUR HAND! I TELL YOU IT AIN'T NATURAL!

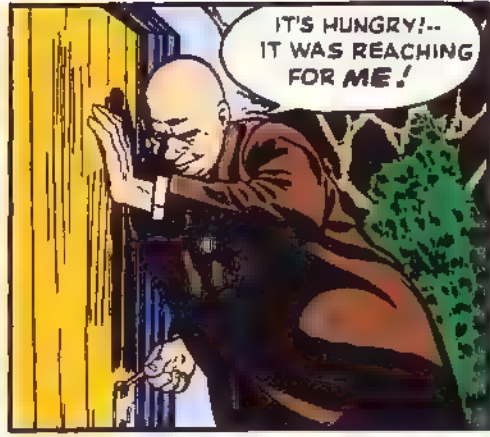
OF COURSE NOT, CARPY! I'VE SPENT YEARS DEVELOPING IT ARTIFICIALLY! NOW RUN ALONG AFTER THAT DIAMOND!



I NEED THAT STOLEN WEALTH! IT ENABLES ME TO CARRY ON MY EXPERIMENTS WITH FLESH-EATING PLANTS! THIS IS ONLY A BABY ---



THOSE ROBBERS CALL THEMSELVES TOUGH! BUT WHAT IF THEY CAME FACE TO FACE WITH THIS REAL TRIUMPH OF MINE?



IT'S HUNGRY!.. IT WAS REACHING FOR ME!



Meanwhile..

WHO ARE YOU?

NOBODY YOU'D KNOW SOCIALLY, MRS. WHITLOCK! COME ACROSS WITH THAT DIAMOND, QUICK!



HELP! POLICE! PO---

DIDJA CONK HER, CARPY! GRAB THE ROCK --I SEE A COP COMING!

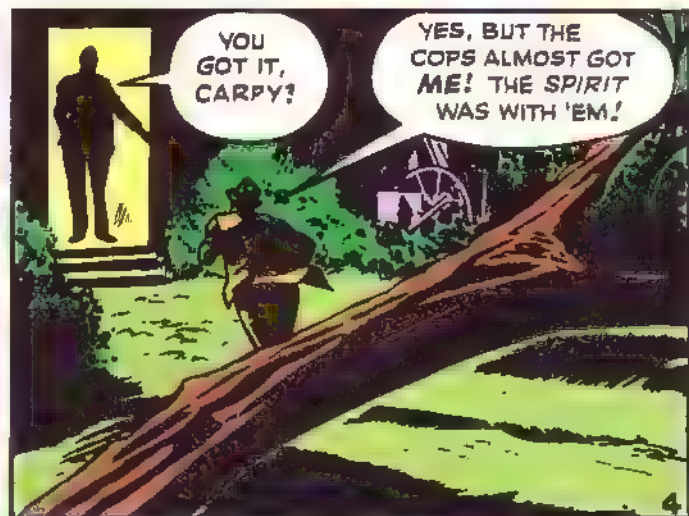
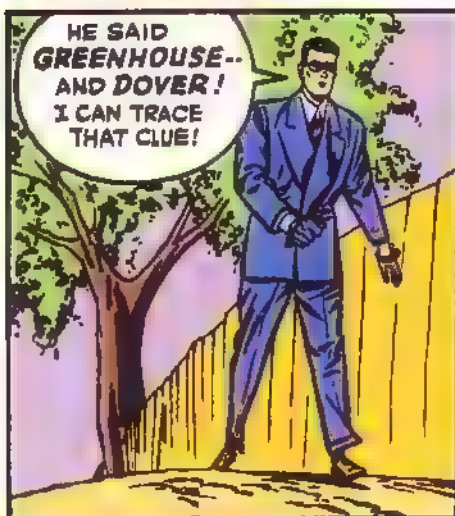
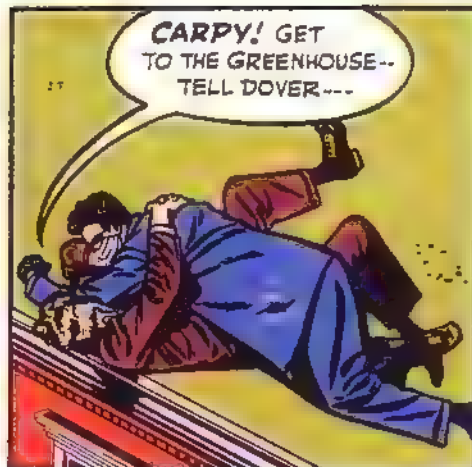
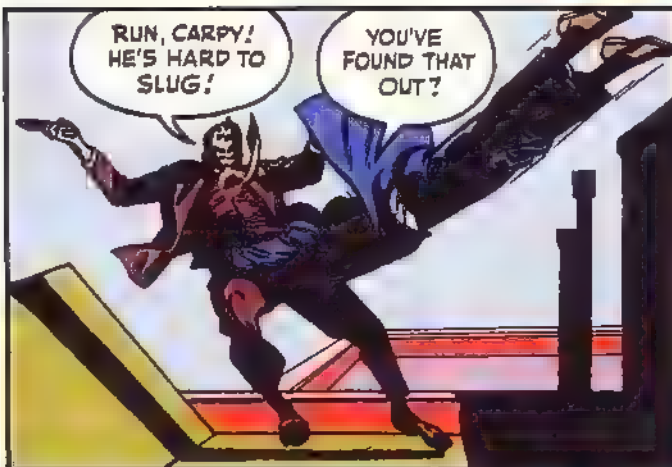


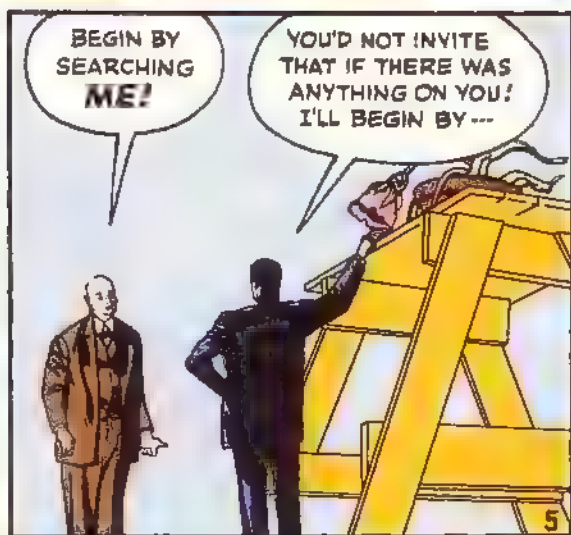
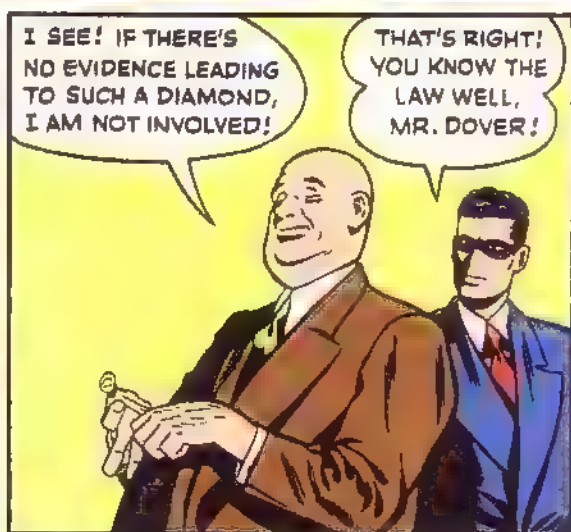
GET HIM!

YEAH, BUT WE'RE CUT OFF! HERE COME SOME MORE!

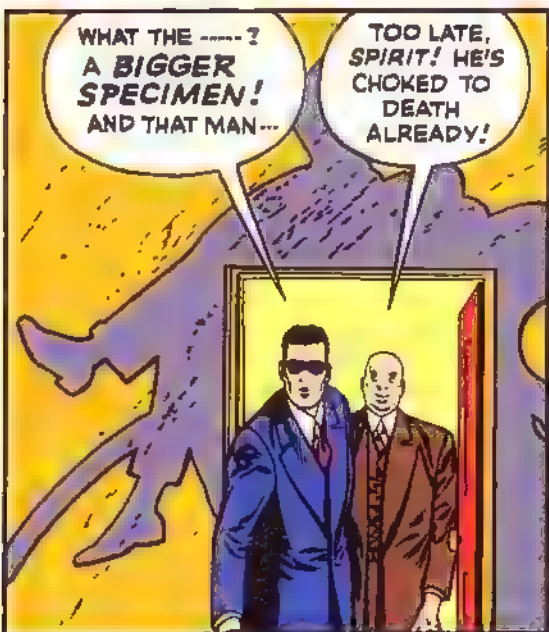
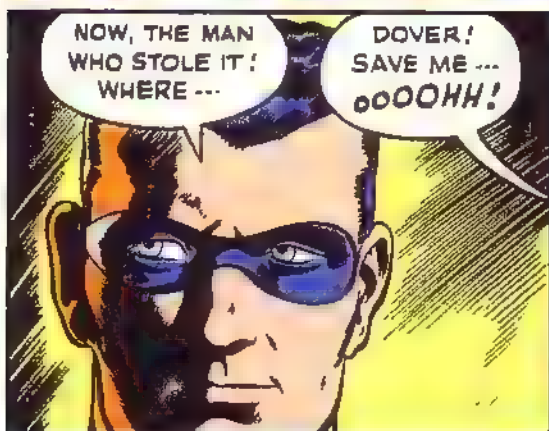


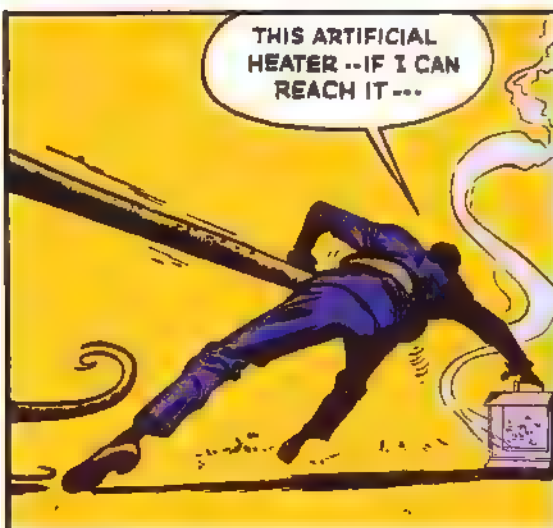












THIS ARTIFICIAL  
HEATER --IF I CAN  
REACH IT---



YOU'VE **DESTROYED**  
IT! A LIFETIME  
OF EXPERIMENT!



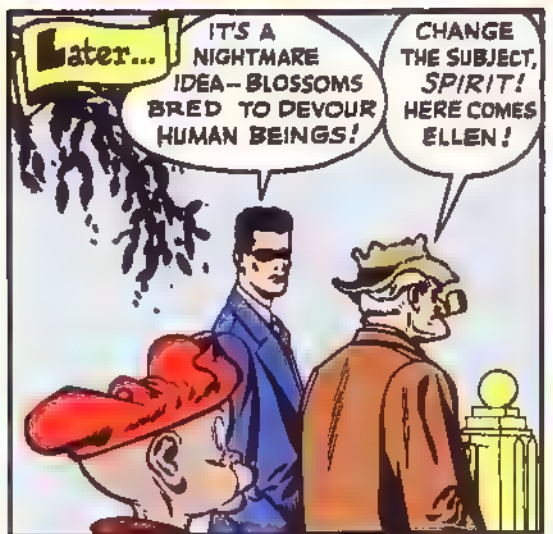
THIS DIAMOND  
--HOW DOES  
IT **STRIKE**  
YOU?

DON'T YOU **EVER**  
TAKE A DAY OFF,  
**SPIRIT?**



THERE'S THE WHITLOCK  
DIAMOND! THIS BATTY  
BOTANIST TRIED TO COVER  
HIS CRIME WITH THOSE  
MAN-EATING POSIES  
OF HIS!

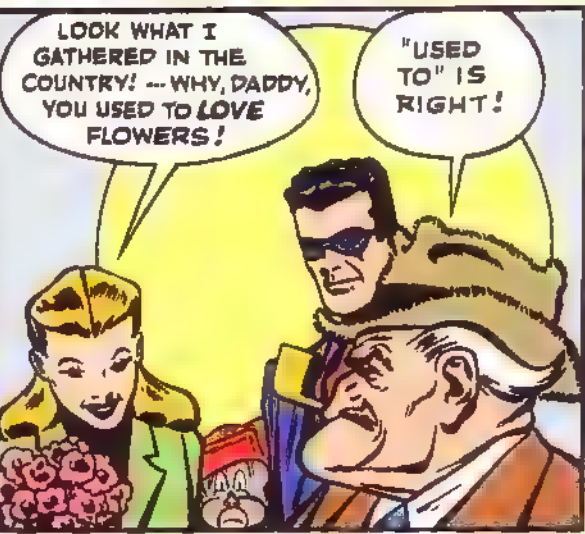
YOU'VE DESTROYED  
THEM, **SPIRIT**,  
AND A GOOD  
THING, TOO!



**Later...**

IT'S A  
NIGHTMARE  
IDEA--BLOSSOMS  
BRED TO DEVOUR  
HUMAN BEINGS!

CHANGE  
THE SUBJECT,  
**SPIRIT!**  
HERE COMES  
ELLEN!



LOOK WHAT I  
GATHERED IN THE  
COUNTRY! --WHY, DADDY,  
YOU USED TO LOVE  
FLOWERS!

"USED  
TO" IS  
RIGHT!

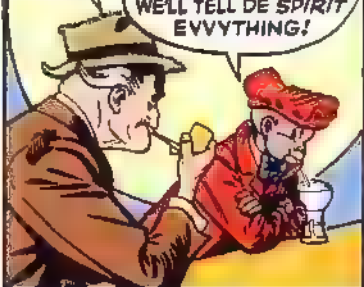




Commissioner Dolan, Central City's police commissioner, gleans crime clues **EVERYWHERE!**

TELL ME THAT AGAIN, EBONY!

YES, MIST' DOLAN-- I HEARD **ONE** GENT'MUN SAY TO DE OTHA ... "RIFTY, WELL TELL DE SPIRIT EVVYTHING!"



AND THIS HAPPENED **ON THE NEXT STREET CORNER?** DRINK HEARTY, EBONY!-- SEE YOU LATER!

THAT'S ALL YOU WANT, KID? 'SCUSE ME, THEN!



THAT'S WHAT THE KID TOLD DOLAN BOSS! AND I NEVER HEARD OF BUT **ONE RIFTY IN ANY RACKET!** HIS ONLY **GOOD** PAL IS GUVVER-- MAYBE THEY'RE BOTH GETTING READY TO SNITCH!



I'VE HEARD OF RIFTY --- HE'S RUMORED TO HAVE HELPED IN THE POST OFFICE ROBBERY! IF I GET THE DOPE BEFORE THE SPIRIT, THE MAYOR OUGHT TO GIVE ME A **PUBLIC CEREMONIAL RECOGNITION!**



WAIT! -- I WOULDN'T KNOW THE TWO CROOKS IF I SAW THEM! HOW --- ?



YOU HERE, SPIRIT?

WHERE ELSE? I HAD A MESSAGE TO MEET THESE TWO RATS! THEY WERE GOING TO TELL ME ---



I KNOW! THAT'S WHY I CAME -- TO BEAT YOU TO THEM!

THAT DEATH CAR'S GONE, BUT --



BUT DID YOU SEE THE LICENSE PLATE?

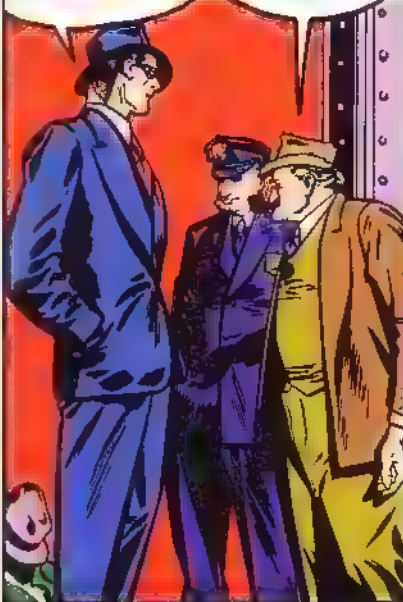
CLOSE ENOUGH TO SEE THAT IT WAS A **PHONY!**





AND A **PHONY**  
LICENSE PLATE  
MAY **SIMPLIFY**  
THINGS! SEE  
WHAT I MEAN?

NO, BUT ---  
TAKE CHARGE,  
FINNEGAN! I'M  
GOING WITH THE  
SPIRIT!



WHOSE  
PLACE  
IS THIS,  
SPIRIT?

JELJO'S! HE'S THE  
BEST FAKER OF  
LICENSE PLATES  
IN TOWN--AND  
THE CROWD THAT  
KILLED RIFTY AND  
GUVVER WOULD  
WANT ONLY THE  
**BEST!**



WHO'S  
THERE?

A COUPLE  
OF CURIOSITY  
SEEKERS,  
JELJO!



OKAY, I'LL GIVE  
YOU JUST FIVE  
SECONDS TO  
SCRAM, OR---  
**YIKE!**

KICK THE DOOR  
IN, **DOLAN!**  
I'M  
IMMOBILIZING  
HIM!



TELL US WHO  
GOT YOU TO  
FAKE THAT  
LAST LICENSE  
PLATE!

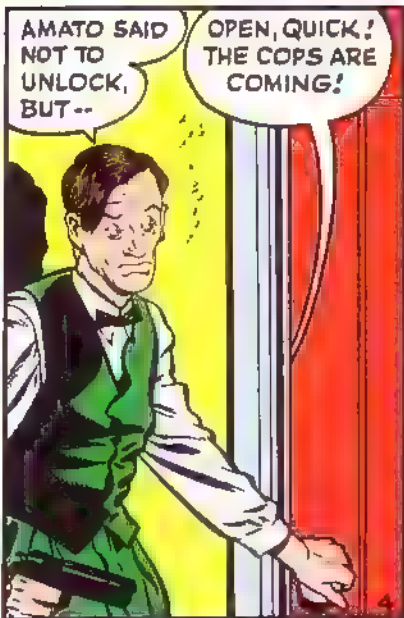
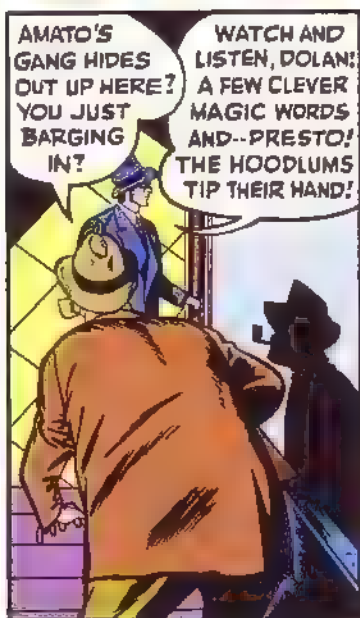
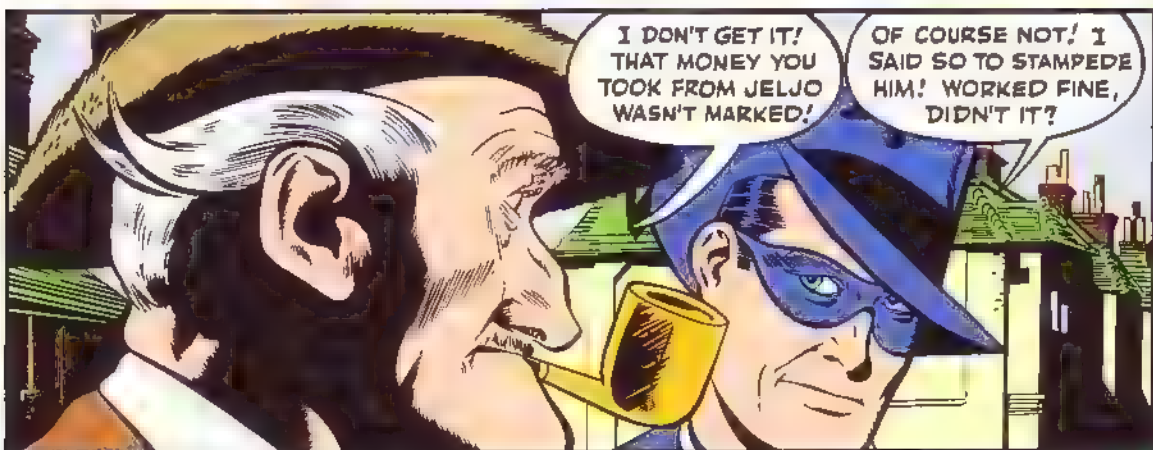
I TELL  
NOBODY  
NOTHING,  
COPPER!



A CLUE, **DOLAN!** THIS MONEY  
THEY PAID HIM IS PART OF  
THE MARKED STUFF FROM  
THE POSTOFFICE  
ROBBERY--

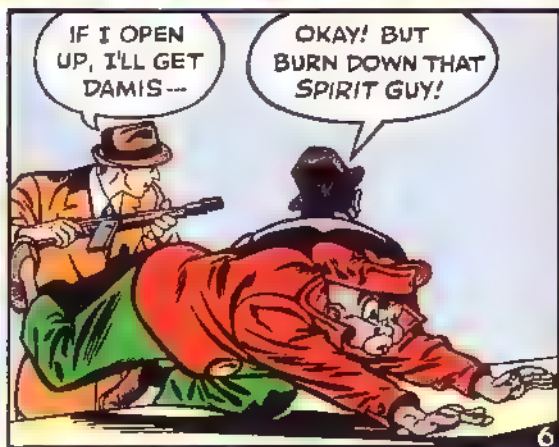
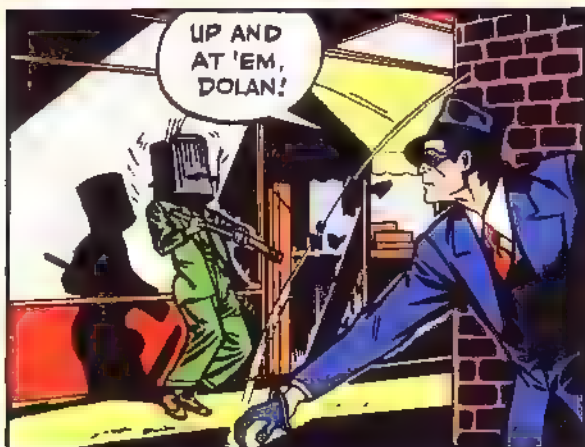
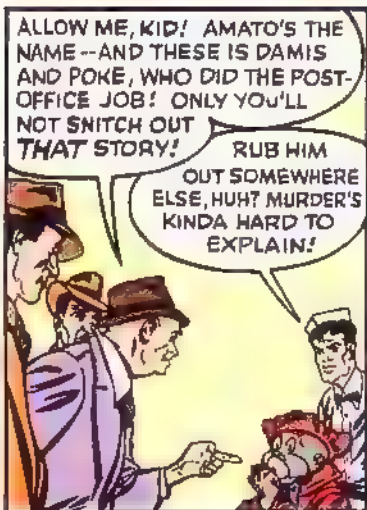
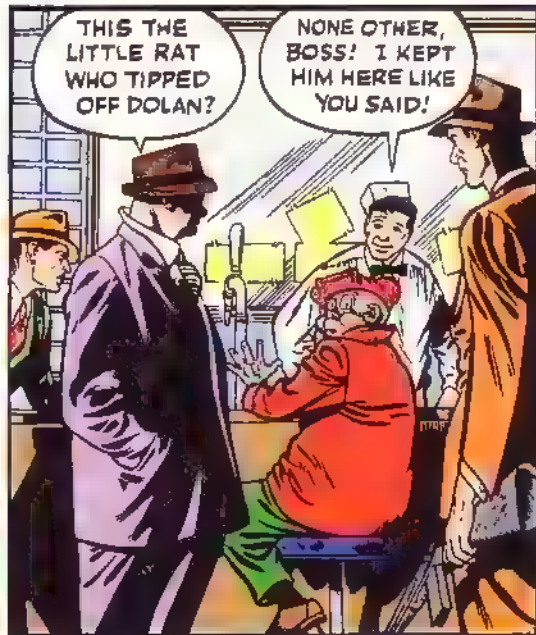
THEY GAVE  
ME **HOT**  
MONEY? WHY,  
THOSE RATS,  
I'LL--



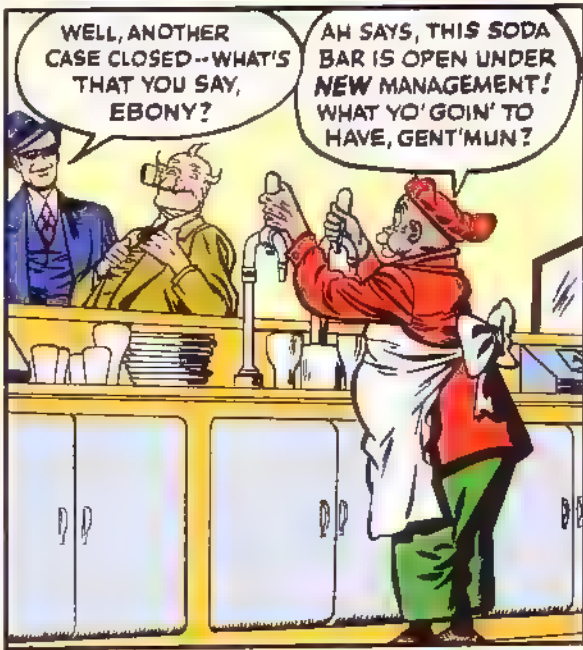
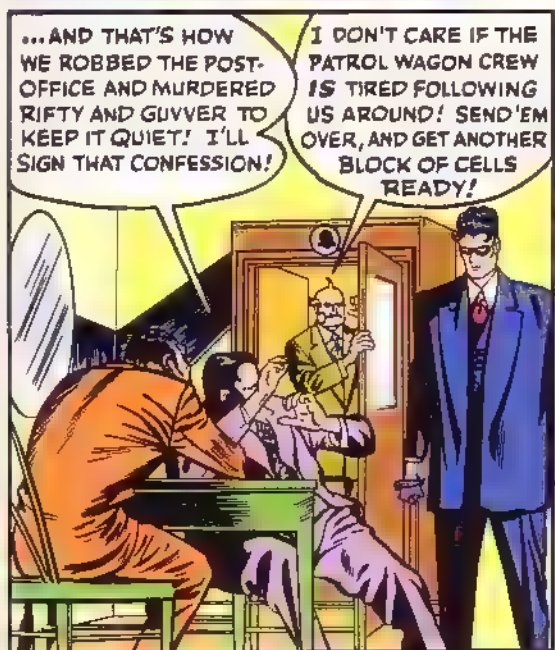
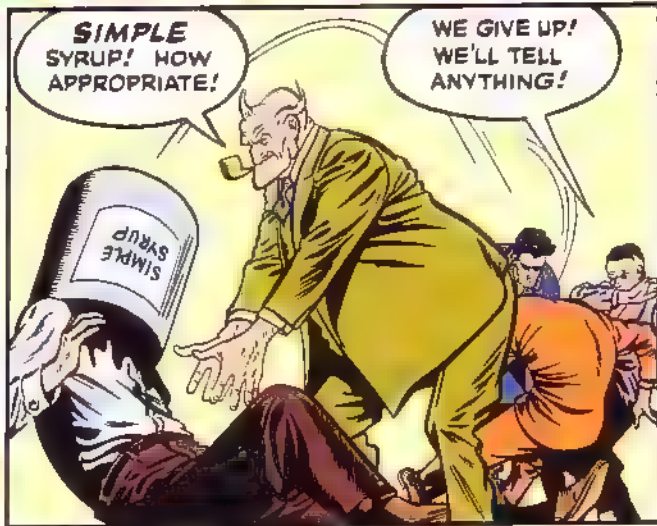
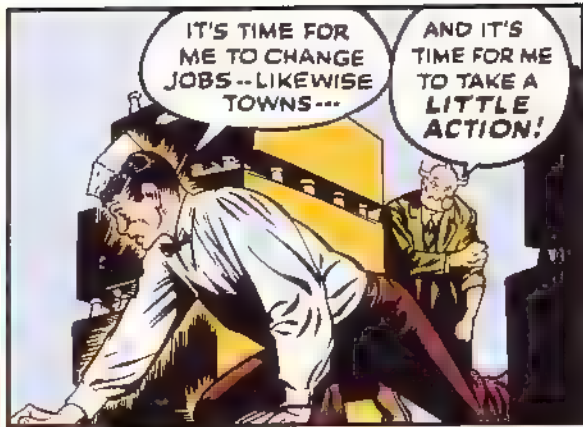
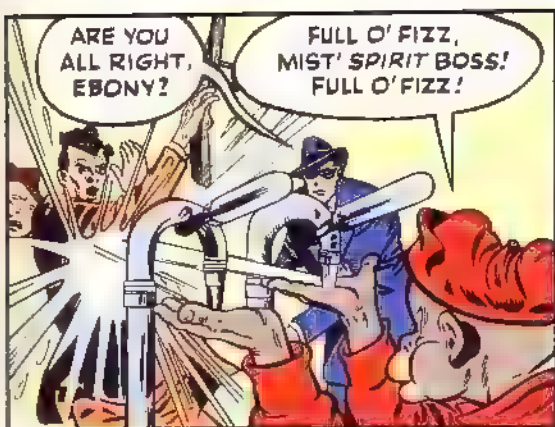














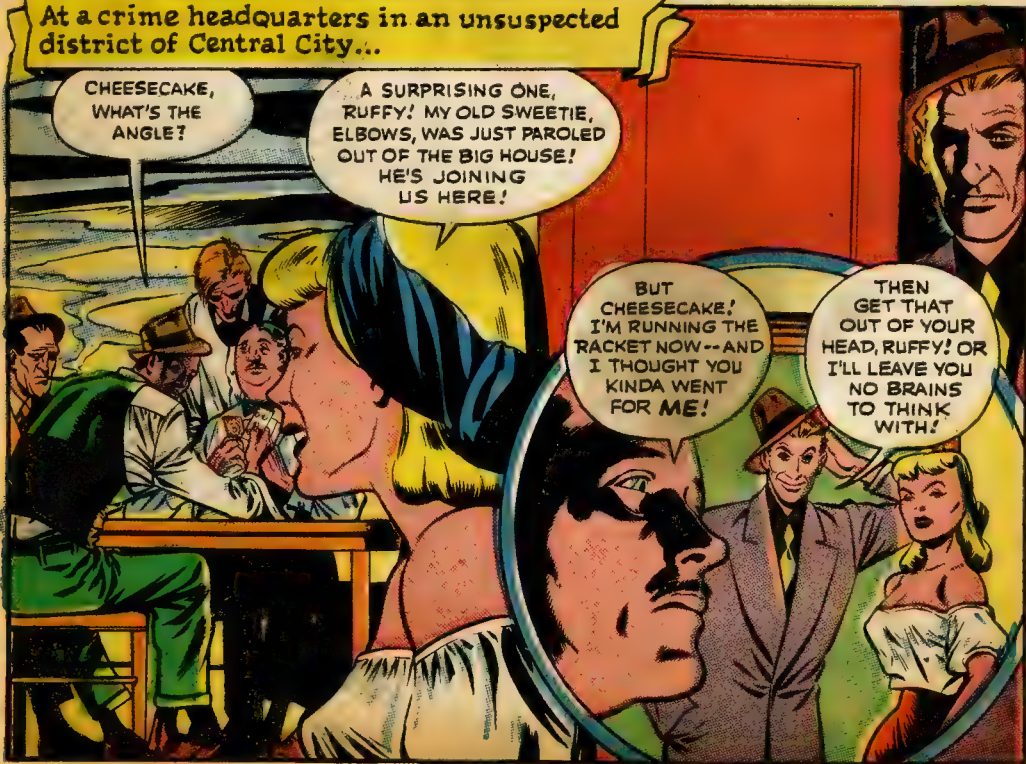
At a crime headquarters in an unsuspected district of Central City...

CHEESECAKE,  
WHAT'S THE  
ANGLE?

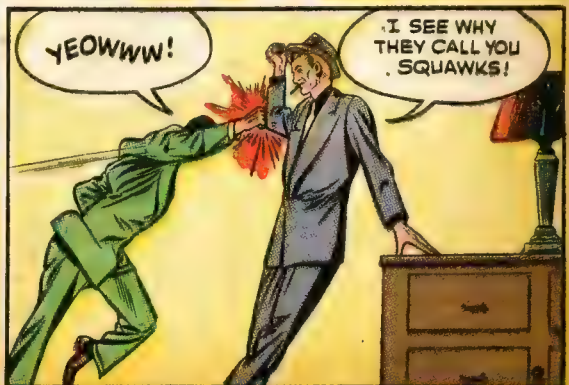
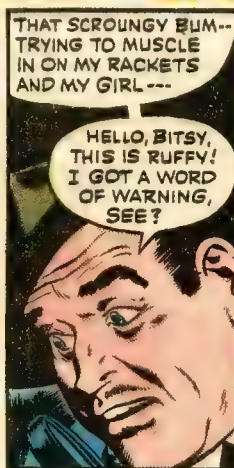
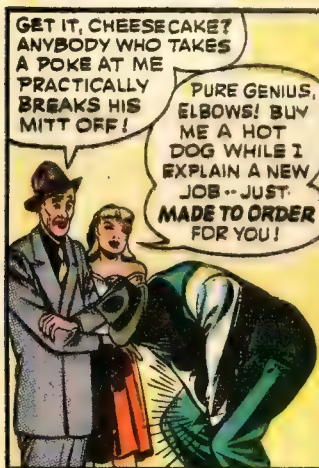
A SURPRISING ONE,  
RUFFY! MY OLD SWEETIE,  
ELBOWS, WAS JUST PAROLED  
OUT OF THE BIG HOUSE!  
HE'S JOINING  
US HERE!

BUT  
CHEESECAKE!  
I'M RUNNING THE  
RACKET NOW--AND  
I THOUGHT YOU  
KINDA WENT  
FOR ME!

THEN  
GET THAT  
OUT OF YOUR  
HEAD, RUFFY! OR  
I'LL LEAVE YOU  
NO BRAINS  
TO THINK  
WITH!







HERE'S MY  
TECHNIQUE,  
BITSY!

LET'S SEE HOW  
YOU WORK AGAINST  
SOMEONE WHO  
COMES IN **UNDER**  
THOSE ELBOWS!



HOW? LIKE  
THIS, BITSY?  
GET THE  
**POINT?**

GET THE  
**POINT--**  
HA! HA! HA!  
ELBOWS HAS A  
SENSE OF HUMOR  
THAT **SLAYS**  
ME!



NOW LET'S GET  
DOWN TO BUSINESS--  
OR DOES SOMEBODY  
ELSE WANT TO  
DEBATE WHO'S  
**BOSS?**

WE'RE  
LISTENING,  
ELBOWS! MAKE  
IT GOOD!



OKAY! IT SO HAPPENS THAT THE  
**POLICE RELIEF FUND**--A  
NICE PIECE OF CHANGE--HAS  
BEEN CASHED OUT OF ONE  
BANK TO BE DEPOSITED  
IN ANOTHER!

WHAT A GAG!  
WE ROB THE  
**COPS!** TELL  
US MORE,  
ELBOWS!



The Police Relief Fund  
has Commissioner Dolan  
as its peerless guardian!

I DON'T GET  
THE IDEA,  
DOLAN! WHY  
DRAW OUT THE MONEY  
**IN CASH--**  
TO DEPOSIT  
**ALL OVER**  
**AGAIN?**

AN INTERESTING  
HISTORICAL  
CUSTOM, **SPIRIT**,  
DATING BACK  
TO COLONIAL  
DAYS!



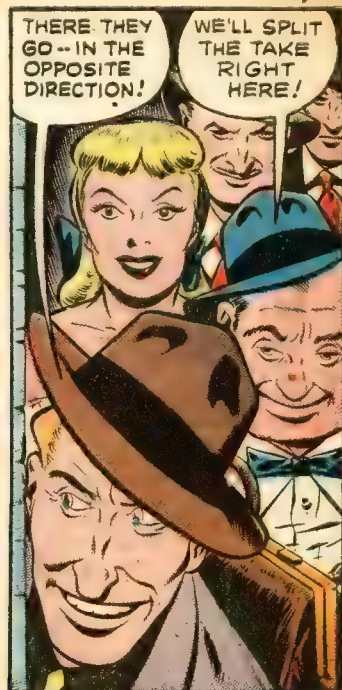
RELIEF FUND RULES SAY  
THAT **EACH YEAR** WE  
DRAW OUT THE CASH--  
COUNT IT-- PUT IT IN  
A NEW BANK!

WE'RE READY  
TO ESCORT YOU  
WITH THE MONEY,  
COMMISSIONER!

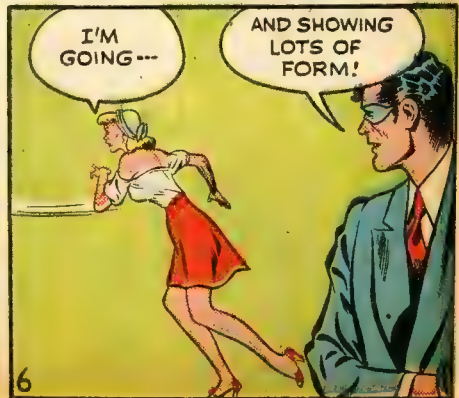
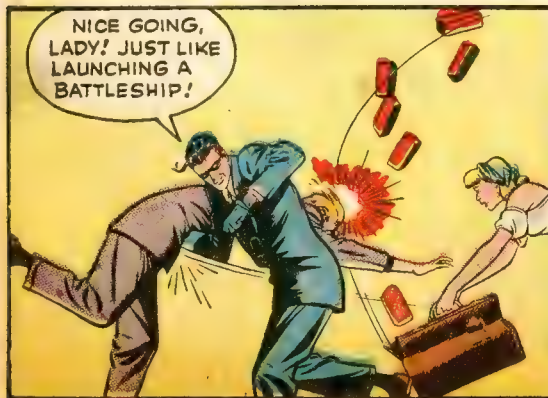
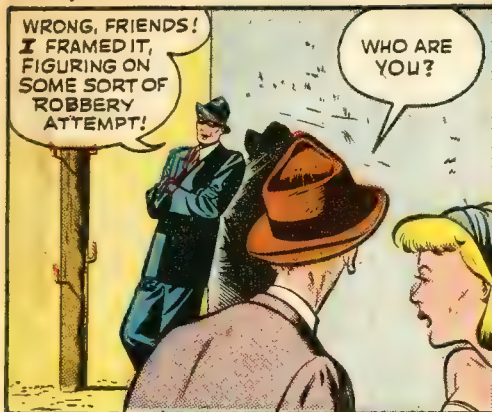












ARE WE GOING  
TO GO THROUGH  
**ANOTHER**  
FAINTING  
ROUTINE?

GRAB HER,  
DOLAN! THE  
REST OF THE  
GANG IS  
RESTING  
EASILY  
IN HERE!



SO YOU SWITCHED THIS  
CASE FOR THE ONE WITH  
THE MONEY? AND DID  
YOU LEAVE THAT ONE  
AT POLICE  
HEADQUARTERS?

OH, NO!  
SOMETHING  
MIGHT  
HAPPEN TO  
IT THERE!



I PUT IT WHERE  
NOBODY WOULD  
**THINK** OF  
LOOKING FOR  
MONEY!

QUICK!  
TELL ME!  
THE  
SUSPENSE  
IS  
**TERRIBLE!**



HERE  
IT IS!

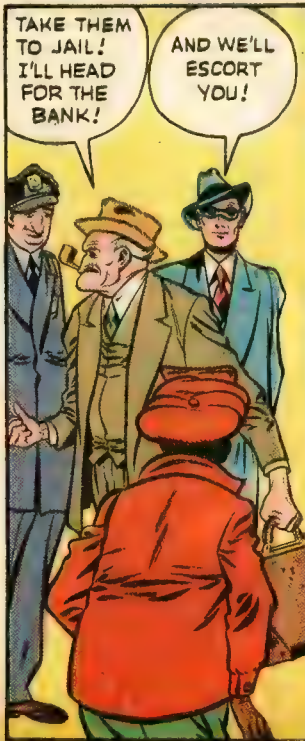
AN' IT'S A WHOLE  
**HOUR** YET 'TIL  
THE TRASH WAGON  
COMES BY!

GIVE  
ME THAT  
MONEY!



TAKE THEM  
TO JAIL!  
I'LL HEAD  
FOR THE  
BANK!

AND WE'LL  
ESCORT  
YOU!



ALL RIGHT, COMMISSIONER,  
THE FUNDS SAFE  
WITH US!

UNTIL **NEXT**  
YEAR! THEN  
WHAT?





THE

# SPIRIT

When Jed Peters awoke that morning, he had only **TWO HOURS** to live!

MMMM --- I OVERSLEPT! BUT I'M THROUGH GOING TO THE OFFICE. ANYWAY-- I'LL NEVER GO BACK TO THAT BROKEN-DOWN JOB!

By the time he dressed and ate his breakfast, he had only **AN HOUR AND A QUARTER** to live!

WHAT A BREAKFAST! EVERYTHING I LIKED-- NO POINT IN SCRIMPING ON NICKELS NOW! -- MAE!

RESTAUR.

When he finished his telephone call, he had exactly **ONE HOUR** to live!

NO, MAE, I'M NOT KIDDING! I'LL BE THERE AS FAST AS A TAXI CAN CARRY ME! HAVE THE DOOR OPEN AND YOUR LUGGAGE PACKED!

It was a long taxi ride -- when he reached his destination, his life span had been cut to **FIFTEEN MINUTES!**

JED! I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING, DARLING -- BUT FIRST I WANT A **KISS!**



A lovers' embrace -- a few tender words -- and Jed had but **TEN MINUTES** left on earth!

OH, JED, IT'S TOO WONDERFUL! CAN WE REALLY AFFORD TO GET MARRIED?

YES, AND IN STYLE, BABY! DRESS IN YOUR BEST, AND LET'S GO FOR THE LICENSE!



Mae Morris dresses no faster than the usual American girl, even in a hurry! Jed's last life sands trickled away! He had only five minutes left -- then only four -- three -- two --

YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME HOW WE'RE GOING TO MANAGE, DARLING! HAVE YOU INHERITED ---?

SLAP THAT POWDER ON YOUR NOSE, MAE! TIME'S A-WASTIN'!



She emerges -- and Jed has only **TWENTY SECONDS LEFT TO LIVE!**

WOW! YOU'RE SO PRETTY I CAN'T STAND IT!

NOW GIVE, HONEY! WHAT'S THE WONDERFUL NEWS?



**ONE SECOND LEFT!**

IT'S A LONG STORY, AND I'M GOING TO TELL ALL OF IT! LET ME BEGIN BY DESCRIBING---



**JED!**

BANG!



Now we know all that Commissioner Dolan and the **SPIRIT** know!

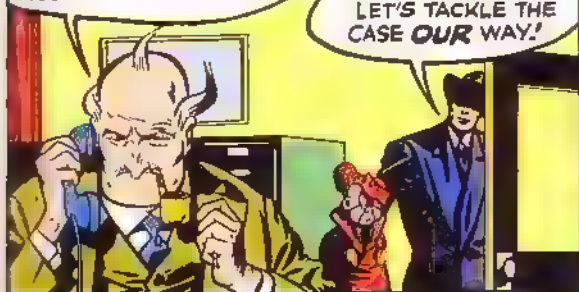
I'VE GONE OVER THE POOR GIRL'S EVIDENCE THREE TIMES, AND I STILL DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN, **SPIRIT!**





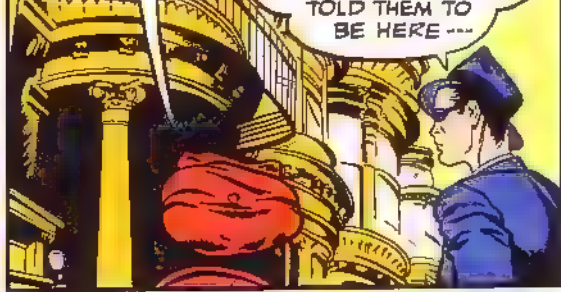
I'LL PUT THE DEPARTMENT EXPERTS ON THE CASE! THEY'LL FIND THINGS WE WOULDN'T DREAM OF!

OKAY, EBONY! DOLAN'S OFF ON ONE OF HIS SCIENTIFIC CRIME-SOLVING TANGENTS! LET'S TACKLE THE CASE OUR WAY!



WHAT'S THIS PLACE, MIST' SPIRIT BOSS?

JED PETER'S BOARDING HOUSE! I'VE CALLED THE THREE PEOPLE WHO KNEW HIM BEST AND TOLD THEM TO BE HERE ---



HANDS UP, OR I'LL ---

FO' GOODNESS' SAKE!



HANDS UP, YOURSELF! WHO ARE YOU TRYING TO RUB OUT?

POLICE! POLICE!



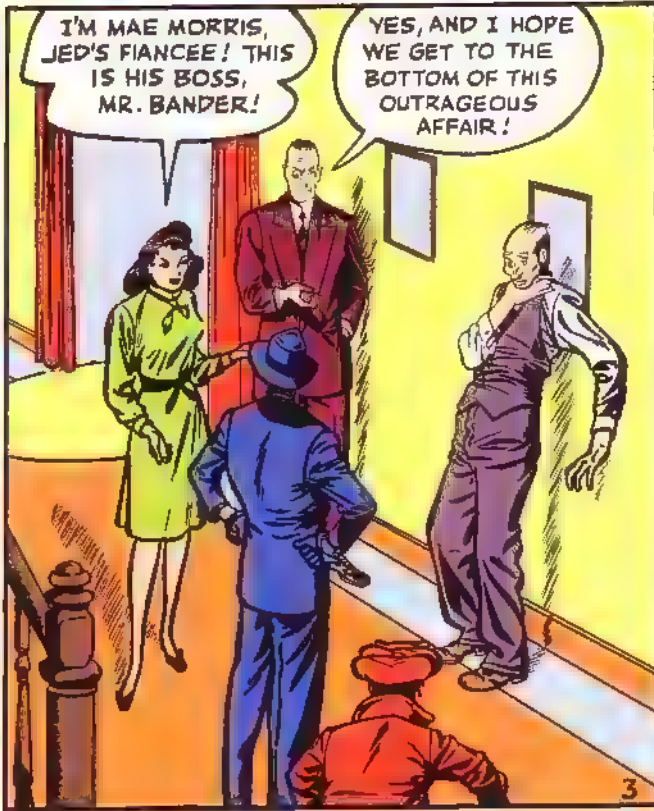
LET GO OF HIM, IF YOU'RE THE SPIRIT! THAT'S JED'S LANDLORD!

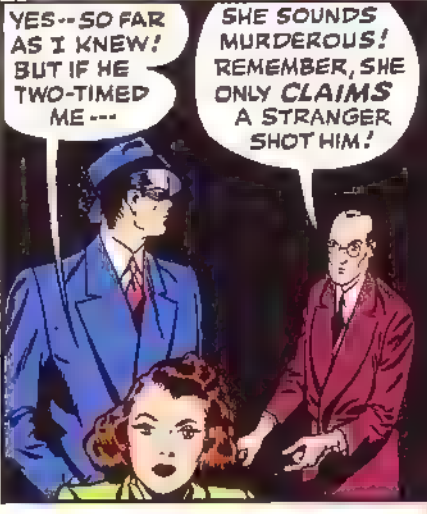
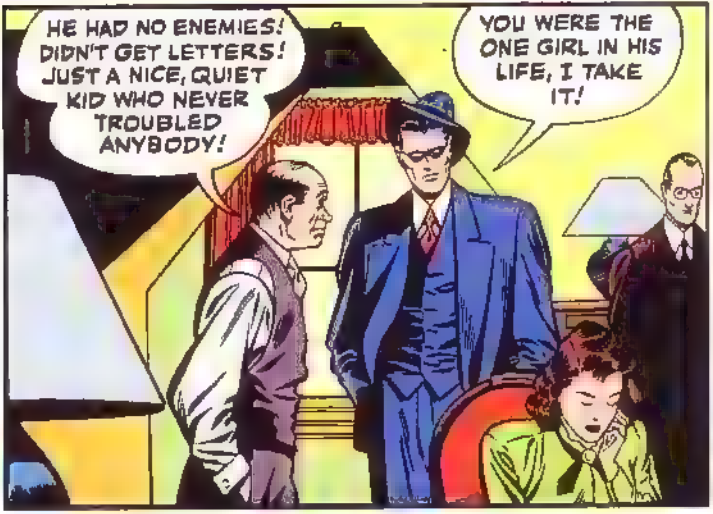
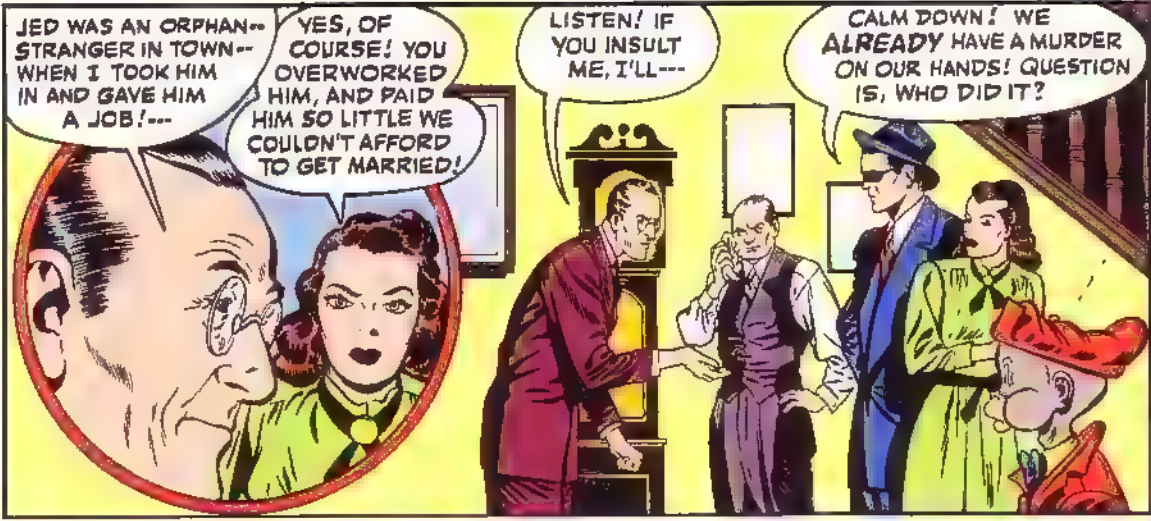
S-SPIRIT! I SAW THAT MASK! --THOUGHT HE WAS THE MURDERER!



I'M MAE MORRIS, JED'S FIANCEE! THIS IS HIS BOSS, MR. BANDER!

YES, AND I HOPE WE GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS OUTRAGEOUS AFFAIR!









EMPTY---BUT THE RETURN ADDRESS SAYS **GAYLORD THEATRE!** WHAT ABOUT IT?

I HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST IDEA!

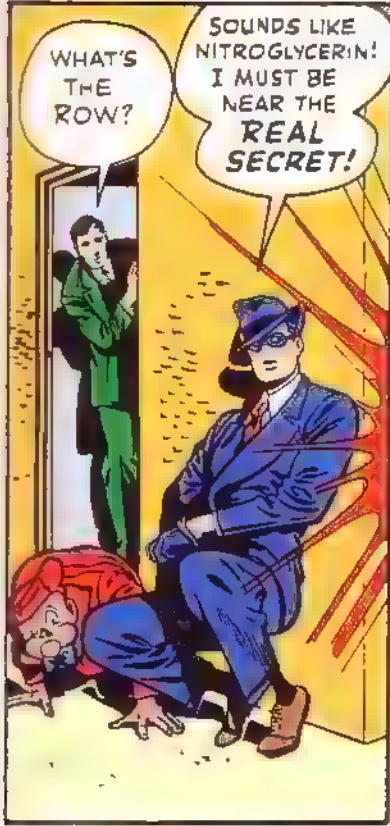


I'LL BE GONE AWHILE! WAIT HERE UNTIL I COME BACK!



HERE'S THE THEATRE---

DUCK, MIST' SPIRIT BOSS! SOMEBODY'S THROWIN' CROCKERY!



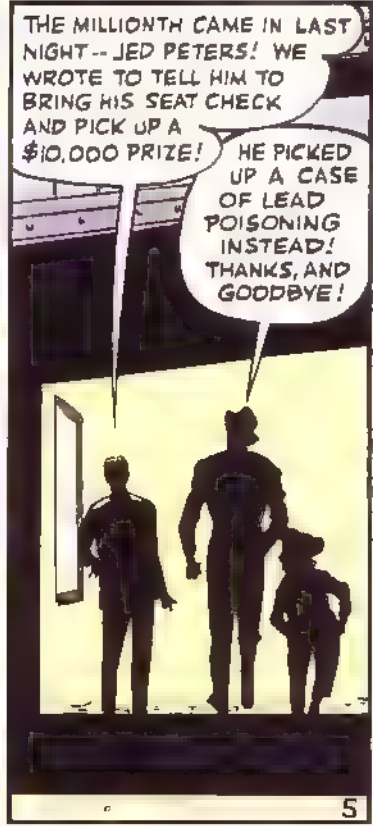
WHAT'S THE ROW?

SOUNDS LIKE NITROGLYCERIN! I MUST BE NEAR THE **REAL SECRET!**



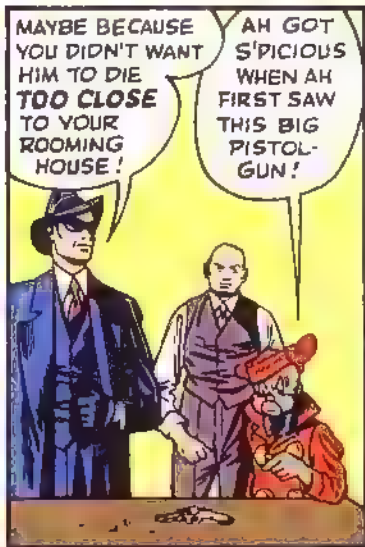
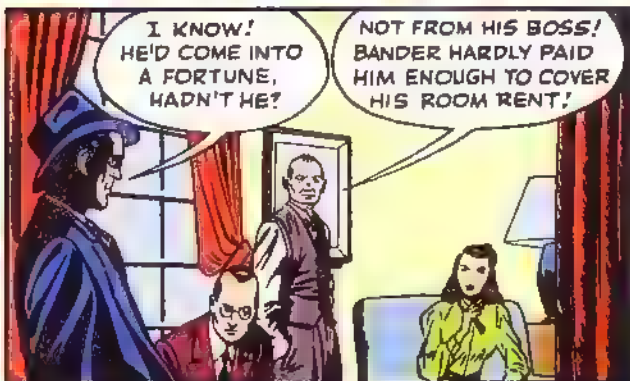
YOU SENT A LETTER TO MR. JED PETERS---

OH, YES! WHEN THE GAYLORD THEATRE OPENED, **ONE CENT WAS SAVED FROM EVERY PAID ADMISSION!** IT WAS TO MAKE A PRIZE FOR THE **MILLIONTH CUSTOMER!**

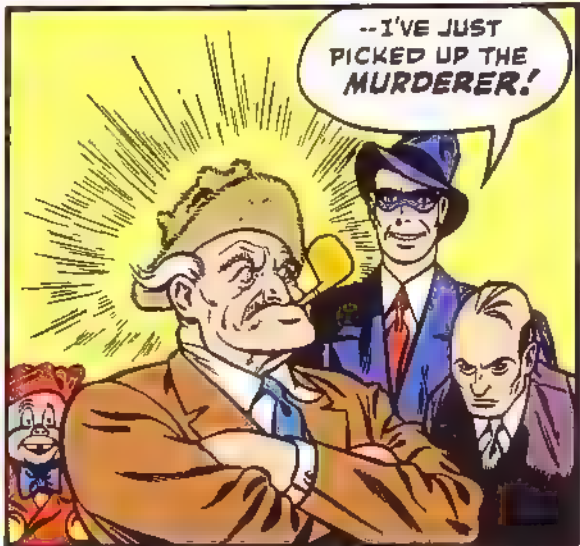
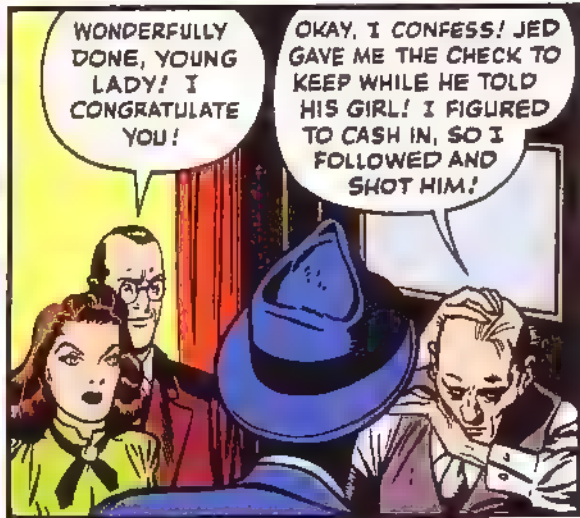
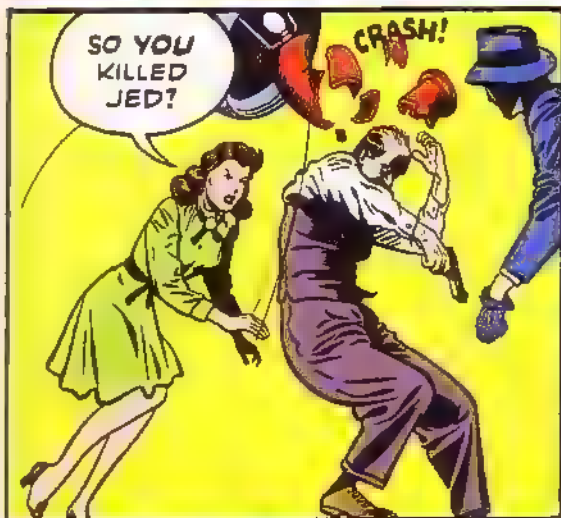


THE MILLIONTH CAME IN LAST NIGHT-- JED PETERS! WE WROTE TO TELL HIM TO BRING HIS SEAT CHECK AND PICK UP A \$10,000 PRIZE!

HE PICKED UP A CASE OF LEAD POISONING INSTEAD! THANKS, AND GOODBYE!





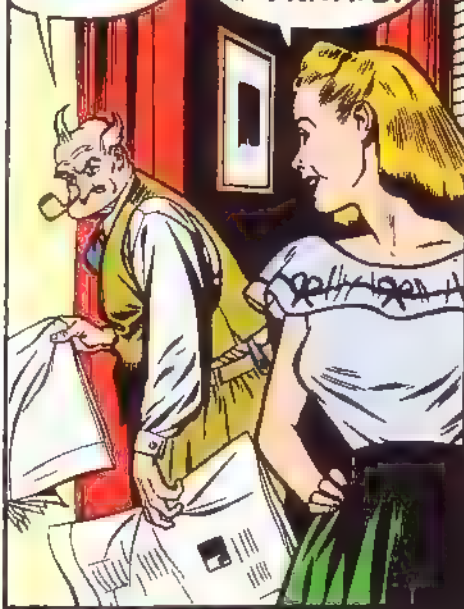




Not all Police Commissioner Dolan's discomforts are connected with the criminal world....

HANG IT ALL, ELLEN, WHY CAN'T I READ MY PAPER IN THE PARLOR?

BECAUSE THE SPIRIT'S COMING TO CALL -- AND IT'S HIGH TIME HE HAD A CHANCE TO SPEAK TO ME IN PRIVATE!

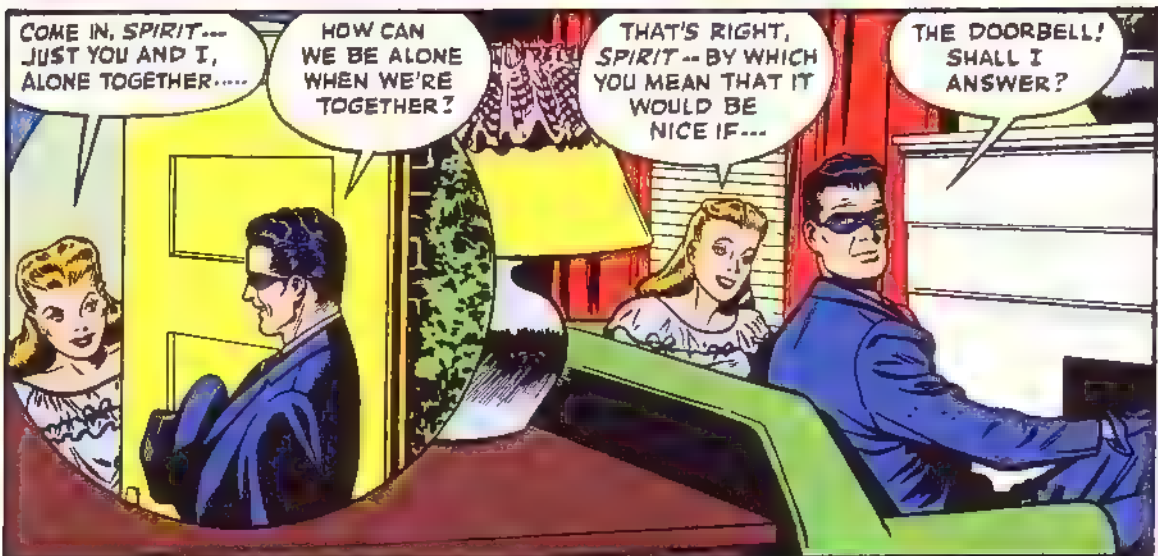


COME IN, SPIRIT... JUST YOU AND I, ALONE TOGETHER....

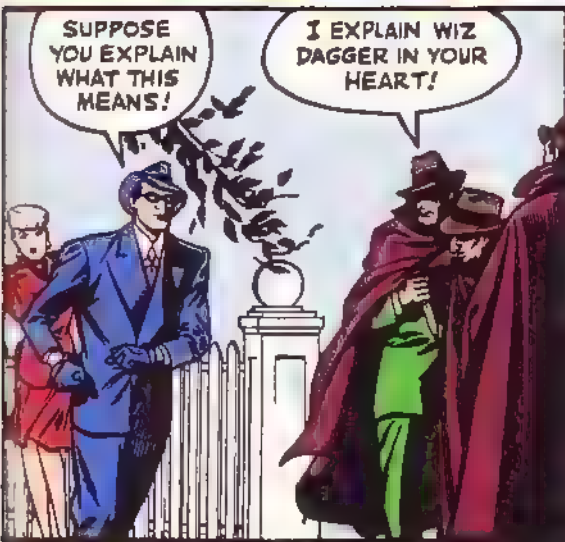
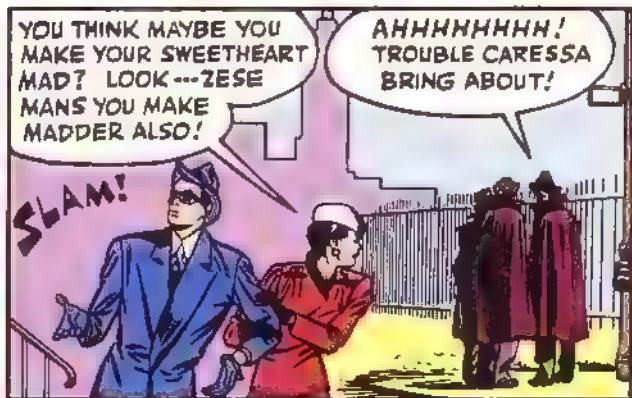
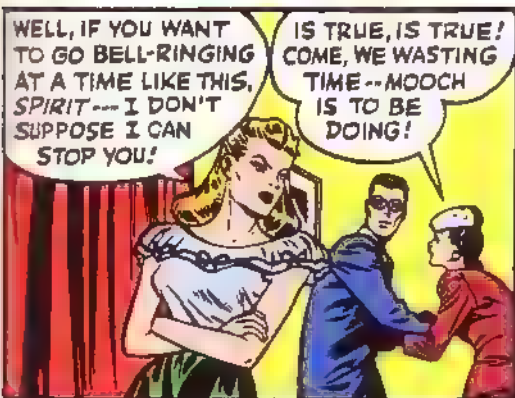
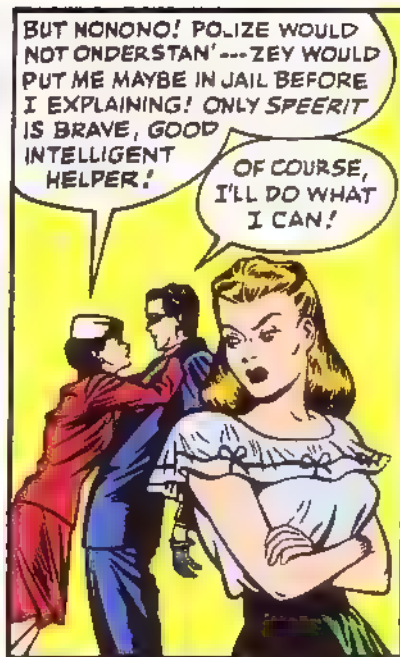
HOW CAN WE BE ALONE WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER?

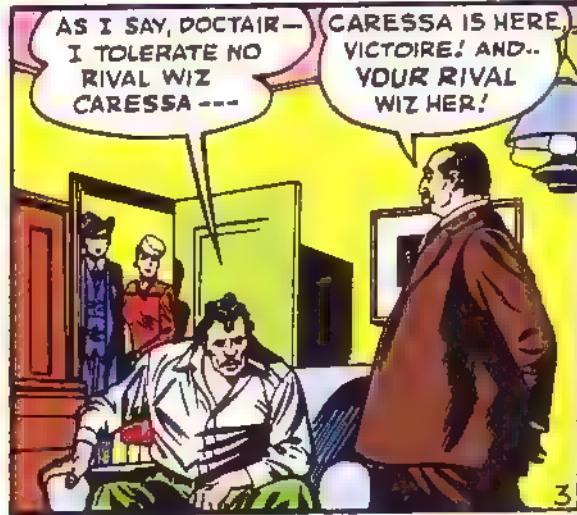
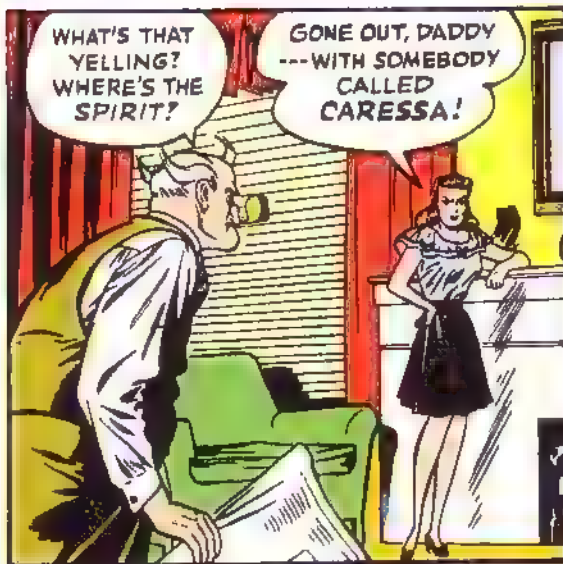
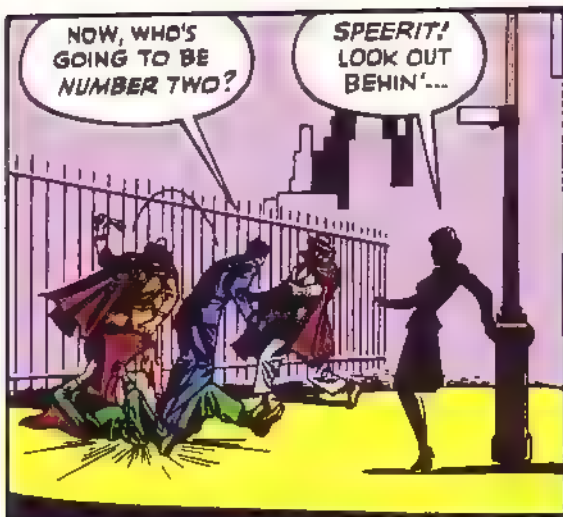
THAT'S RIGHT, SPIRIT -- BY WHICH YOU MEAN THAT IT WOULD BE NICE IF...

THE DOORBELL! SHALL I ANSWER?

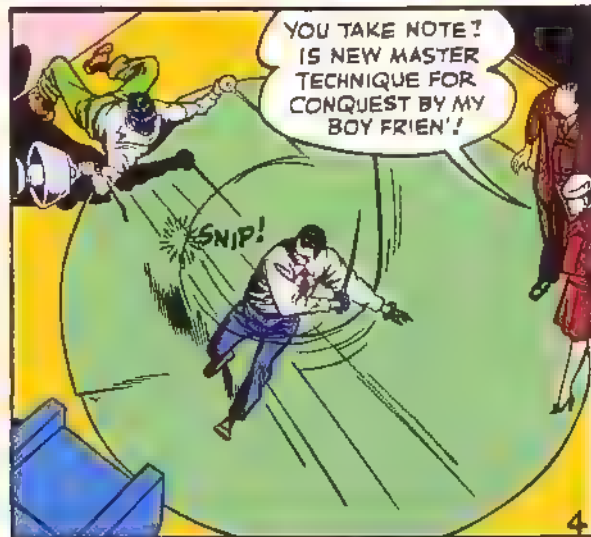
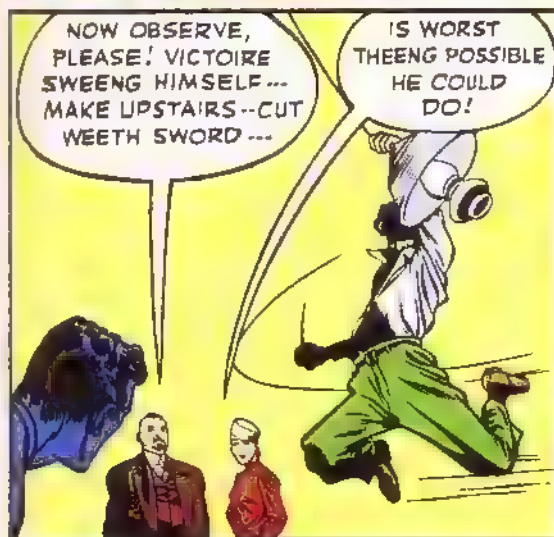
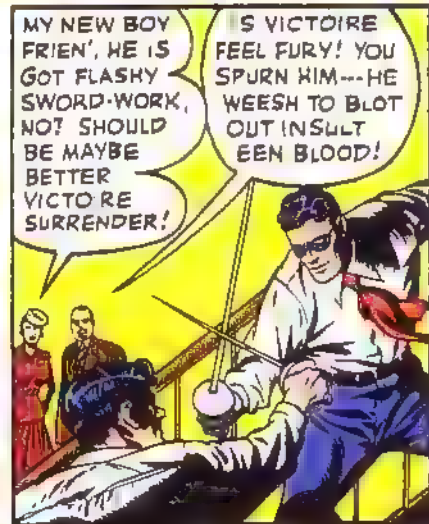


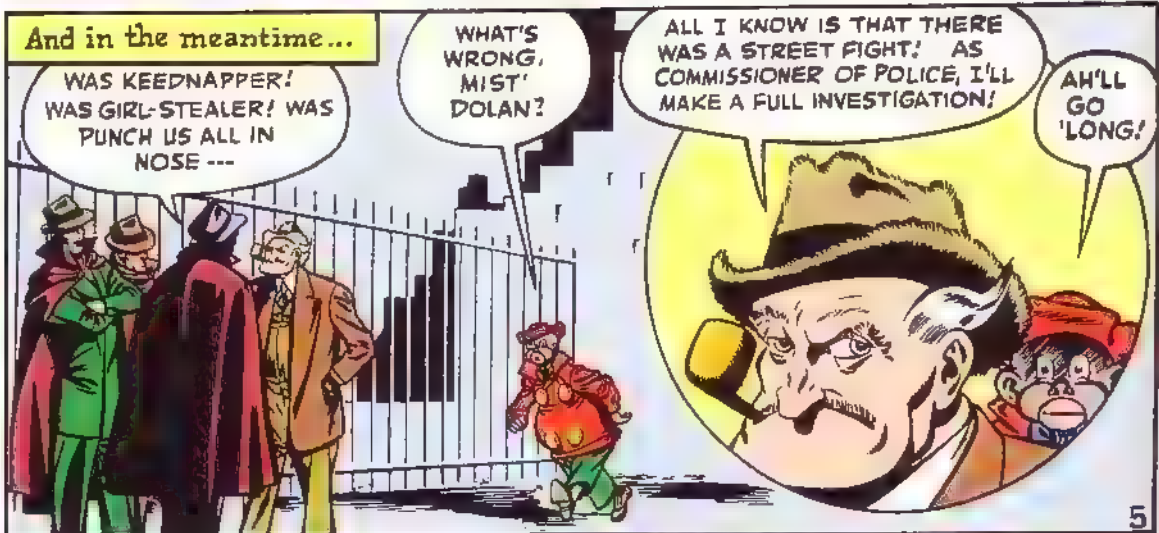
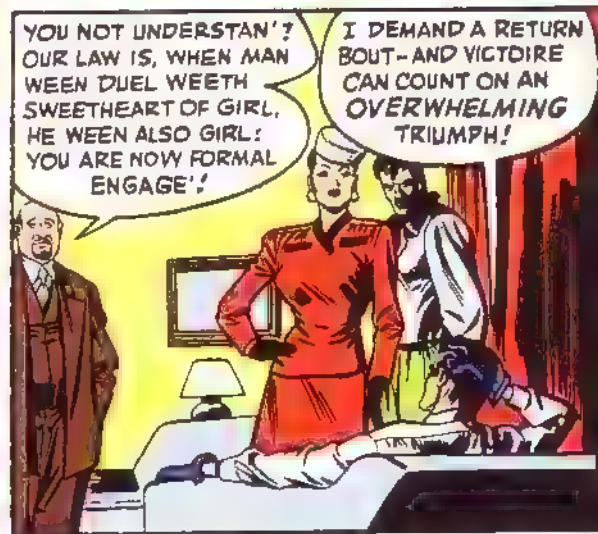
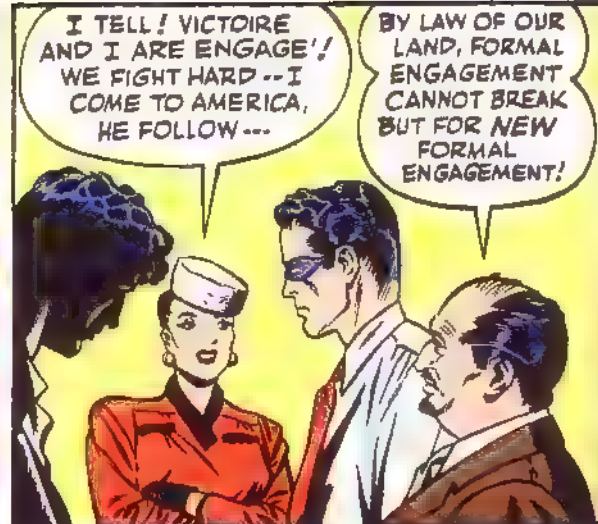
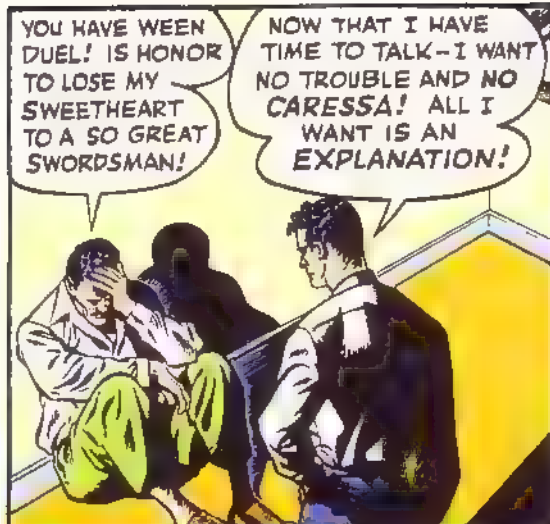














LOOK, VICTOIRE -- WHEN WE START FIGHTING, I DROP MY SWORD! THEN YOU DRAW A LITTLE BLOOD AND WIN CARESSA BACK---

YAI! I AM BE PRIZE IN FAKE DUEL! ---WHO KNOCK ZERE?



IS THIS THE BIRD WHO SMACKED YOU AROUND?

NO, IS ONLY DOCTAIR! INSIDE MUS' BE CARESSA AND HER ROFFNECK!

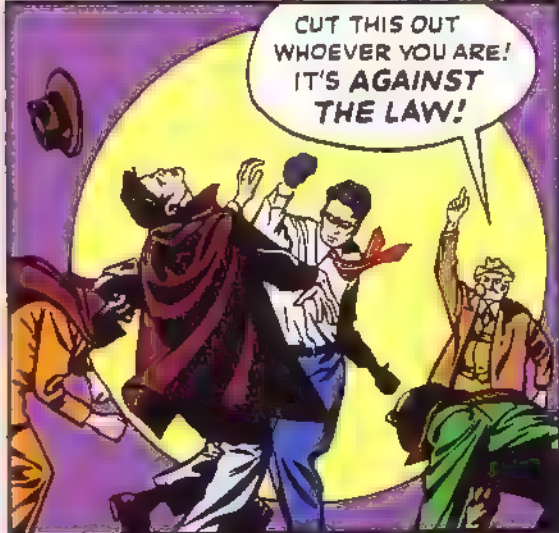


AHHH! SAME KILLER WAIT FOR US! ATTACK, ALL!

THE MYSTERIOUS TRIO OF WOUNDS! WELL, THIS TIME I REALLY GET ROUGH!



CUT THIS OUT WHOEVER YOU ARE! IT'S AGAINST THE LAW!



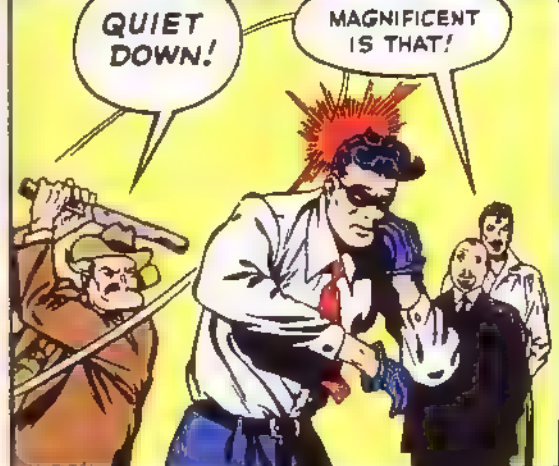
THAT GUY'S A MENACE TO THE COMMUNITY! I'LL ---

HERE! TAKE CLUB! IS MORE PERMANENT!



QUIET DOWN!

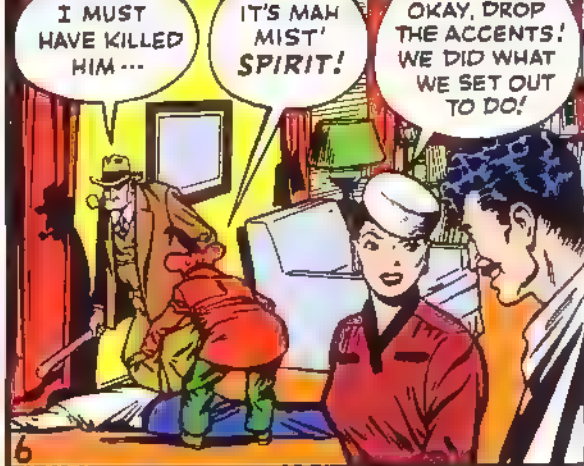
MAGNIFICENT IS THAT!



I MUST HAVE KILLED HIM ---

IT'S MAH MIST' SPIRIT!

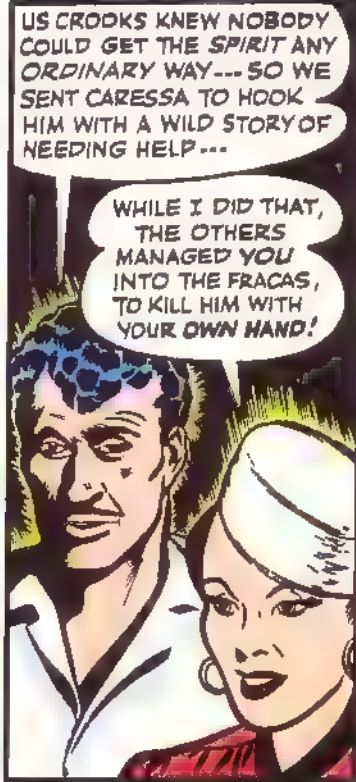
OKAY, DROP THE ACCENTS! WE DID WHAT WE SET OUT TO DO!





YOU--YOU  
AREN'T  
FOREIGNERS  
???

NOT US! WE  
WEASELED YOU  
AND THE SPIRIT  
INTO THIS...  
TO GET YOU  
BOTH OUT  
OF YOUR  
RACKET-  
BREAKING!



US CROOKS KNEW NOBODY  
COULD GET THE SPIRIT ANY  
ORDINARY WAY... SO WE  
SENT CARESSA TO HOOK  
HIM WITH A WILD STORY OF  
NEEDING HELP...

WHILE I DID THAT,  
THE OTHERS  
MANAGED YOU  
INTO THE FRACAS,  
TO KILL HIM WITH  
YOUR OWN HAND!



BUT--  
BUT...

HEREAFTER YOU--  
AS POLICE  
COMMISSIONER--  
HELP US--OR  
WE'LL TELL THE  
WORLD HOW  
YOU KILLED  
YOUR PAL!



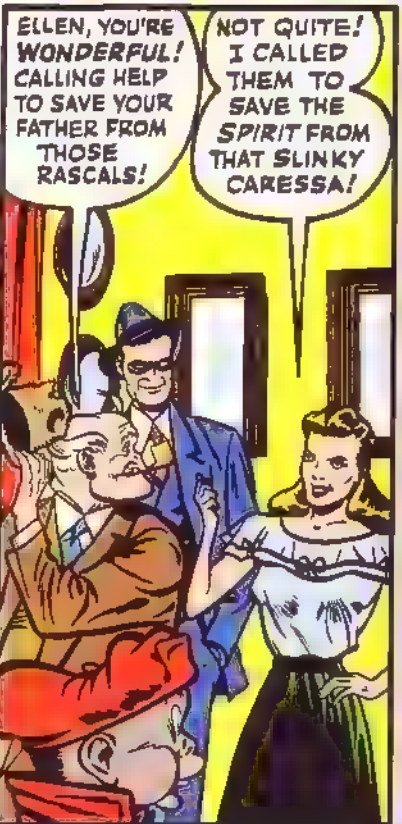
SORRY, GENTS! YOU OVER-  
ESTIMATED DOLAN! HE ONLY  
PUT A BUMP ON ME, NOT  
THE FINAL CREPE!

WE HEARD  
EVERYTHING,  
YOU RATS! CMON,  
WE'LL GIVE YOU  
PERSONAL ESCORT  
TO THE POKEY!



WHO TOLD  
YOU BOYS  
TO COME  
ALONG?

YOUR  
DAUGHTER,  
COMMISSIONER!  
DIDN'T YOU  
KNOW?



ELLEN, YOU'RE  
WONDERFUL!  
CALLING HELP  
TO SAVE YOUR  
FATHER FROM  
THOSE  
RASCALS!

NOT QUITE!  
I CALLED  
THEM TO  
SAVE THE  
SPIRIT FROM  
THAT SLINKY  
CARESSA!



COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

RECORD  
PHILADELPHIA

ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

Copyright 1945, by Everett M. Arnold

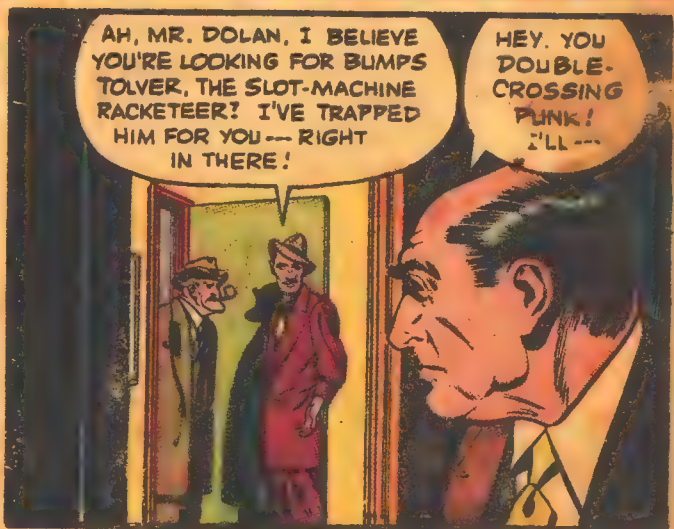
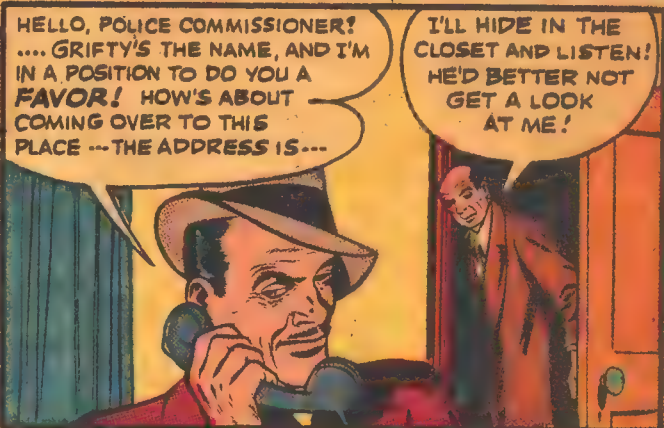
SUNDAY, JULY 29, 1945

THE

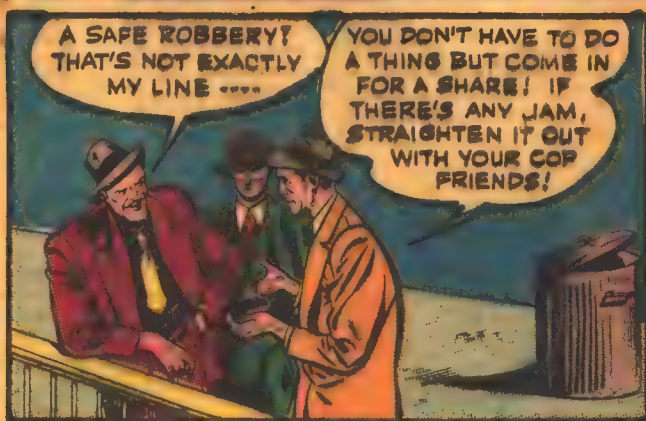
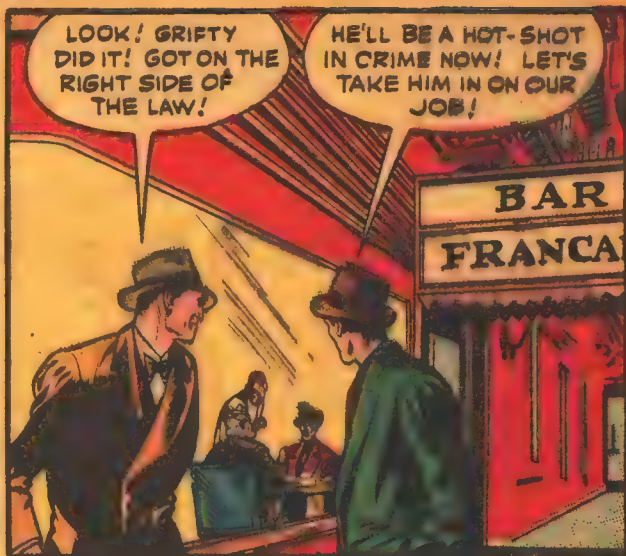
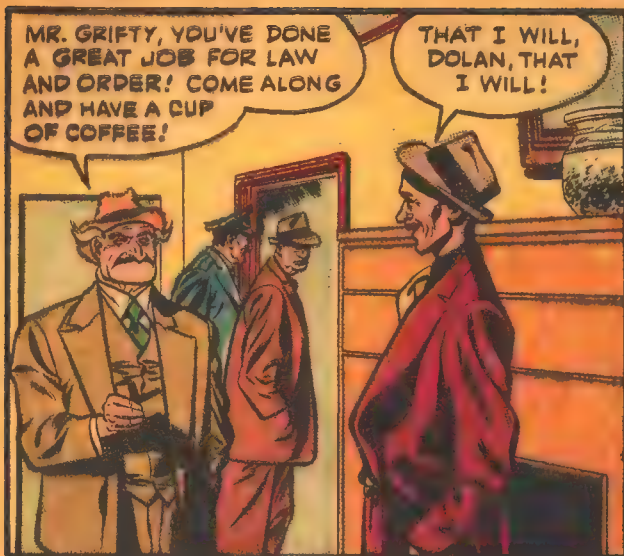
THE  
**SPIRIT**



An underling speaks in the underworld....









In a certain cozy home  
under the ground in  
Wildwood Cemetery...

MIST' DOLAN TOLD ME TO  
INVITE YO', MIST' SPIRIT BOSS!  
HE WANTS TO INTERDUCE  
YO' TO A NEW  
ACQUAINTANCE!

DOLAN  
SOMETIMES  
CHOOSSES ODD  
FRIENDS! COME  
ALONG, EBONY,  
BUT KEEP  
OUT OF  
SIGHT!



AH, GRIFTY, HERE HE IS  
NOW! SHAKE HANDS  
WITH A REAL PAL,  
SPIRIT!

THIS  
IS A  
PLEASURE!



I KNOW SOMETHING  
OF YOUR RECORD,  
SPIRIT-- AND IT'S  
GIVEN ME  
INSPIRATION!

SOUNDS  
FLATTERING  
-- BUT JUST  
WHAT DOES  
HE MEAN?



TWO BIG TRIUMPHS  
IN ONE DAY --- YOU'RE  
AMAZING! I WANT  
YOU TO EXPLAIN  
HOW ....

IF YOU  
DON'T MIND,  
DOLAN, I MUST  
LEAVE EARLY!  
ANOTHER  
DATE!



SPLENDID  
FELLOW!  
A REAL  
HELP TO MY  
DEPARTMENT!

FOLLOW  
THE MAN WHO'S  
LEAVING,  
EBONY!



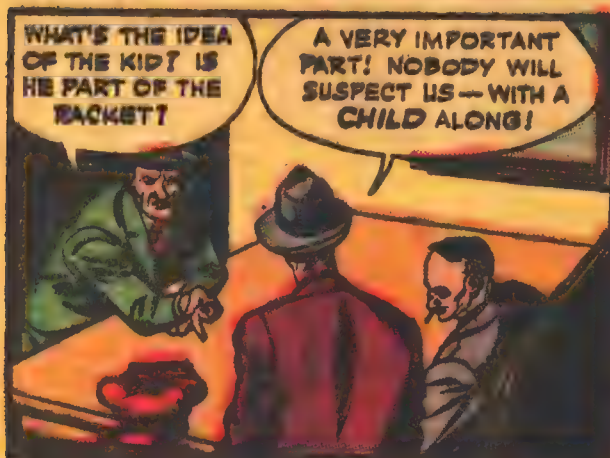
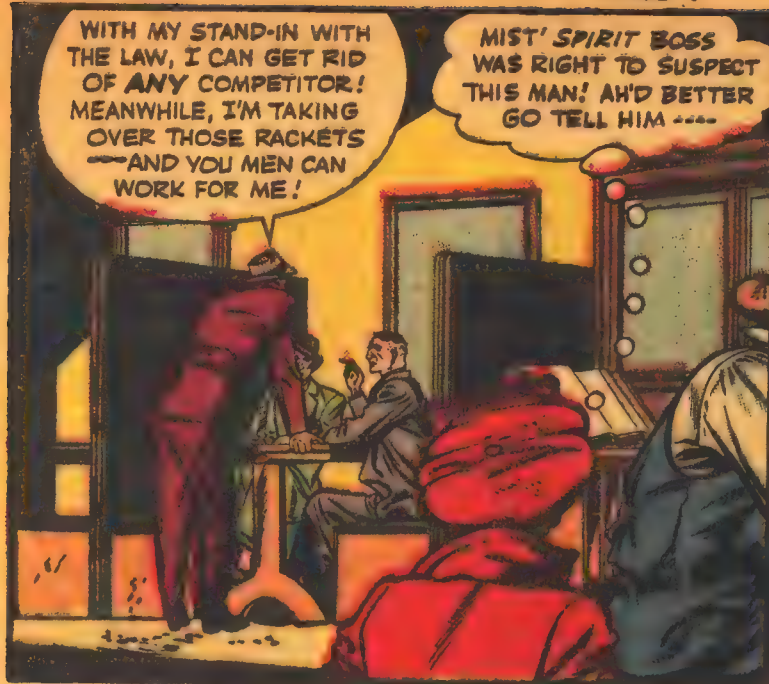
And later...

HERE HE IS,  
THE DOUBLE-  
CROSSING, COP-  
LOVING  
RAT!

ARE YOU TWO  
AS DUMB AS  
YOU LOOK?  
WHEN I'VE  
JUST  
REMOVED  
SUCH  
IMPORTANT  
BUSINESS  
RIVALS?



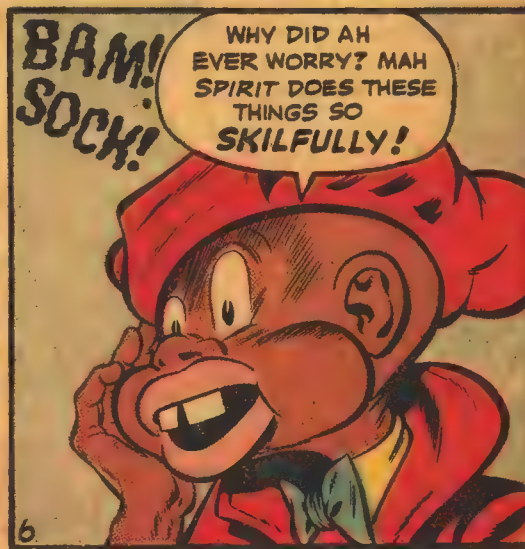
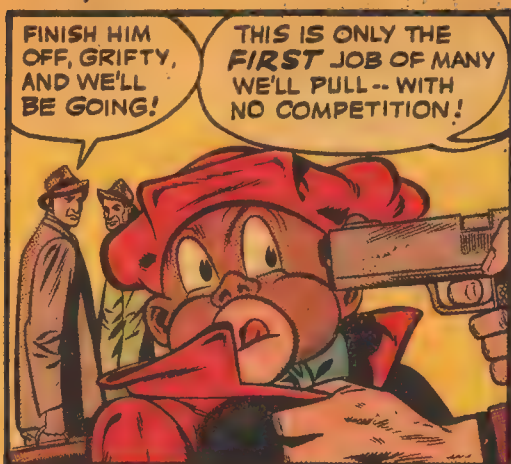
















# The SPIRIT

HELLO! TUFFY'S TAVERN,  
WHERE THE HEELS STEAL  
FOR A MEAL! SCROUNGY  
THE MANAGER  
SPEAKIN' ---

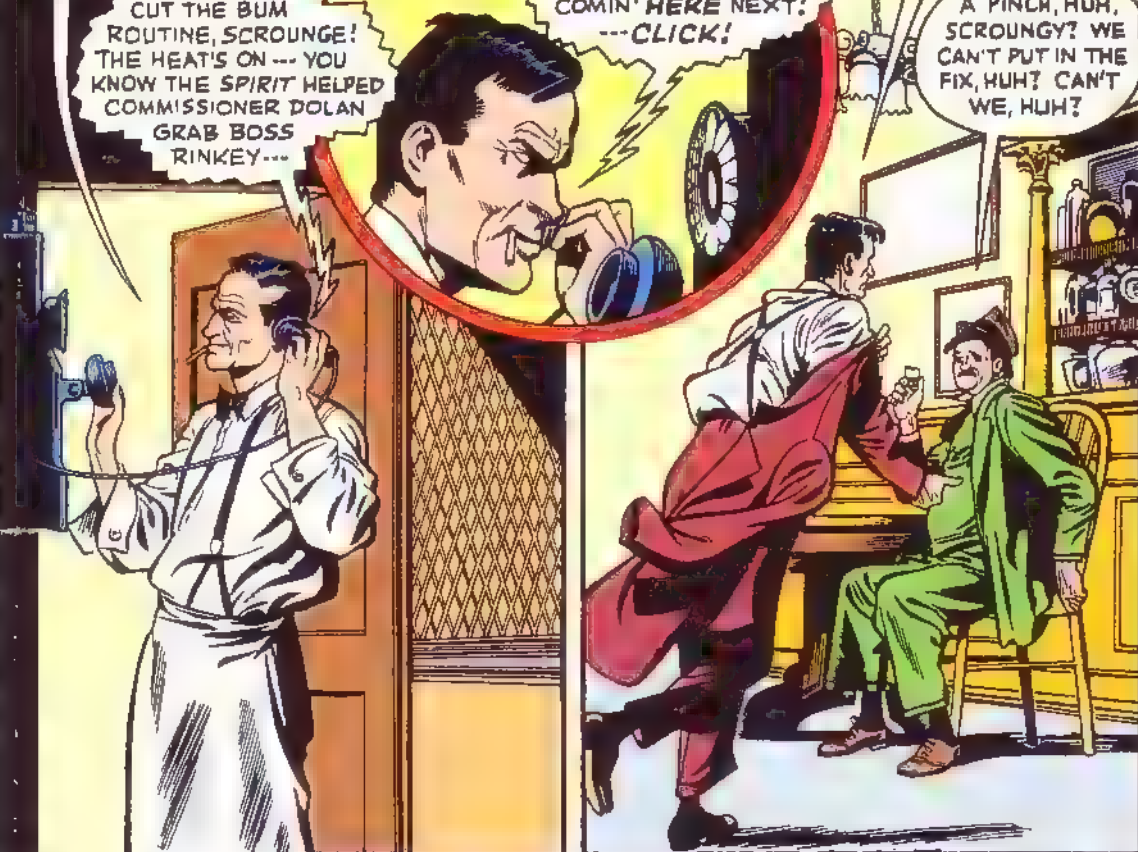
CUT THE BUM  
ROUTINE, SCROUNGE!  
THE HEAT'S ON --- YOU  
KNOW THE SPIRIT HELPED  
COMMISSIONER DOLAN  
GRAB BOSS  
RINKEY ---

BUT THIS IS JUST  
A REMOTE CONTROL  
STATION FOR  
RINKEY!

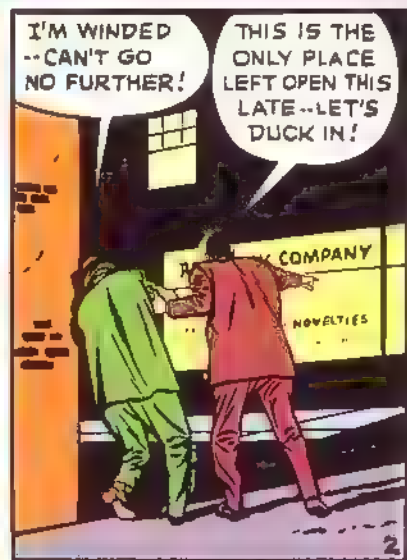
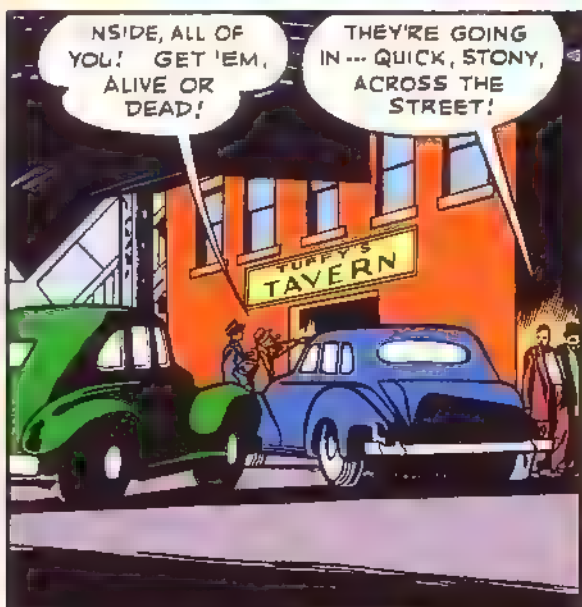
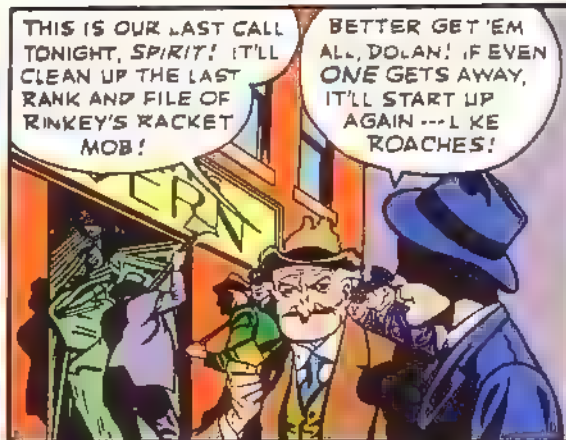
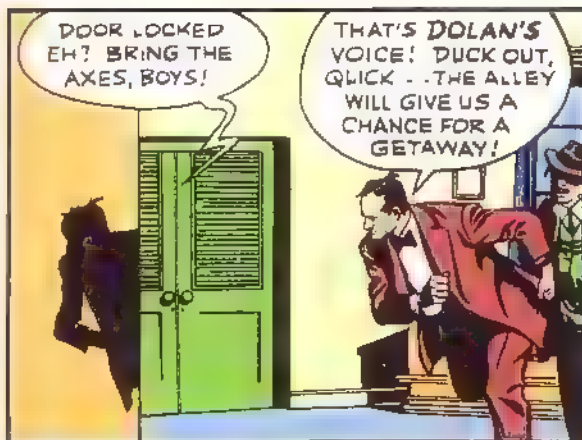
HE'S SPILLING  
EVERYTHING ---  
BUT ALL,  
EVERYTHING!  
THE COPS WILL BE THERE  
NEXT --- NO, THEY'RE  
COMIN' HERE NEXT!  
---CLICK!

DOWN THAT QUICK,  
STONY! WE'RE DUCKIN'  
OUT IN THE ALLEY ---  
BEFORE THE BOYS IN  
BLUE GET HERE!

A PINCH, HUH,  
SCROUNGY? WE  
CAN'T PUT IN THE  
FIX, HUH? CAN'T  
WE, HUH?









AH, GENTLEMEN!  
WHAT DO YOU  
REQUIRE?

YOUR WHOLE  
STORE! AND  
SINCE I HAVEN'T  
THE TIME TO  
EXPLAIN---



YOU KILLED  
HIM,  
SCROUNGE!

I'D HATE TO  
THINK I  
MISSED THAT  
CLOSE! QUICK  
STONY, SHOVE  
HIM UNDER THE  
COUNTER--OUTA  
SIGHT---

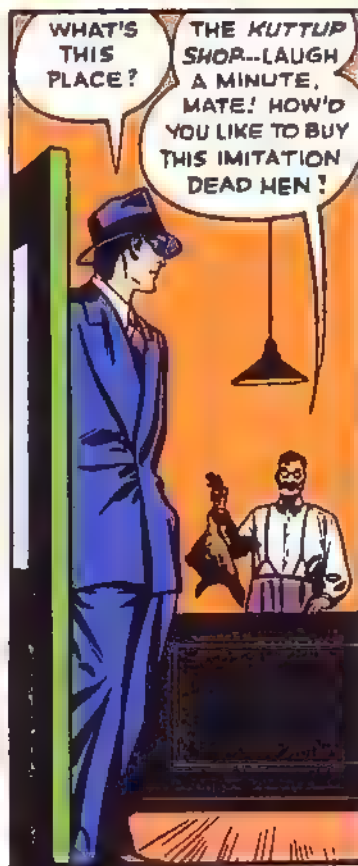


NOW GET ON A  
DISGUISE! THOSE  
LAW LICE WILL BE IN  
OUR HAIR ANY  
SECOND---



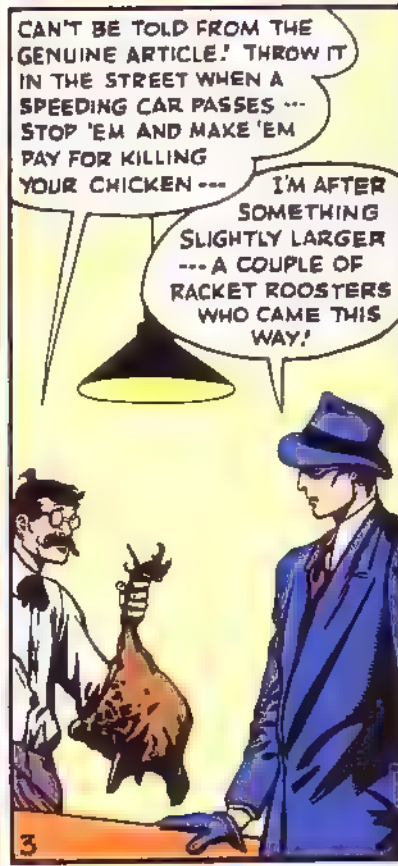
SORRY TO BE  
LATE FO' THE  
FUN, MIST'  
SPIRIT BOSS!  
WHERE'S  
IT AT?

GET DOLAN  
AT TUFFY'S  
TAVERN! I  
HEARD A SHOT  
IN THAT NOVELTY  
STORE AND I'M  
GOING IN TO  
CHECK!



WHAT'S  
THIS  
PLACE?

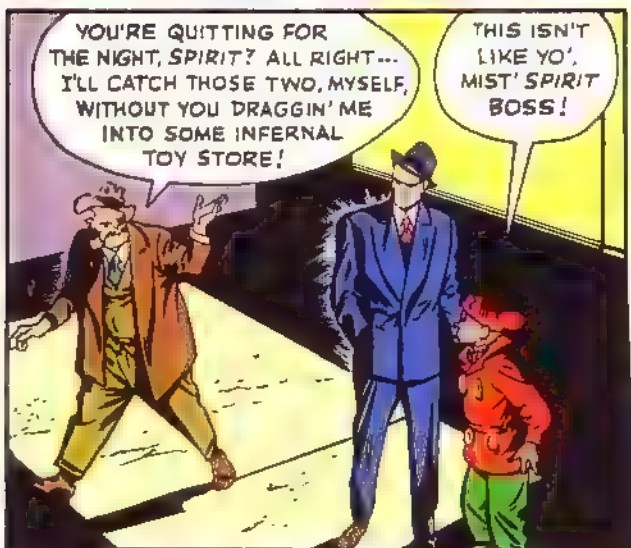
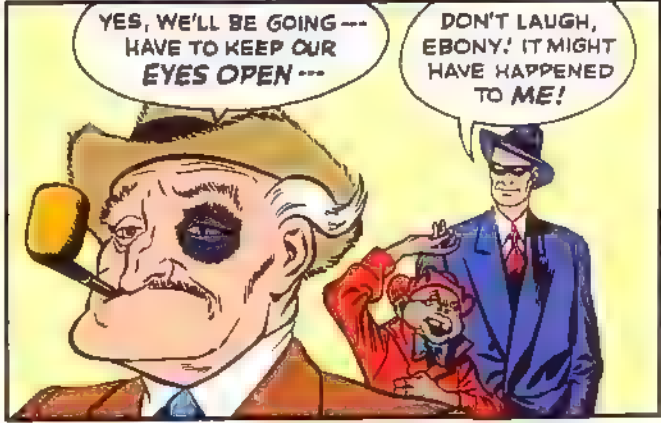
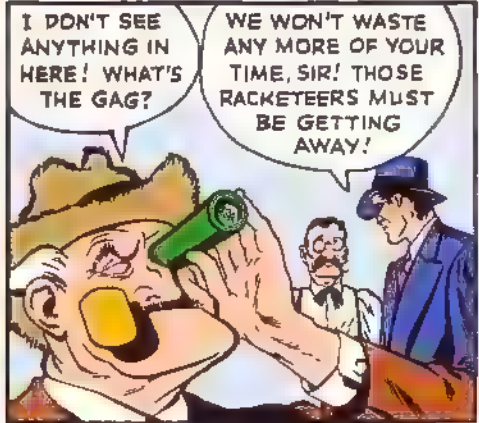
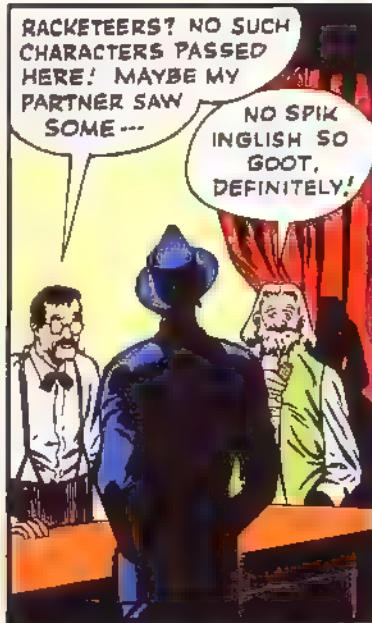
THE KUTTUP  
SHOP--LAUGH  
A MINUTE,  
MATE! HOW'D  
YOU LIKE TO BUY  
THIS IMITATION  
DEAD MEN!

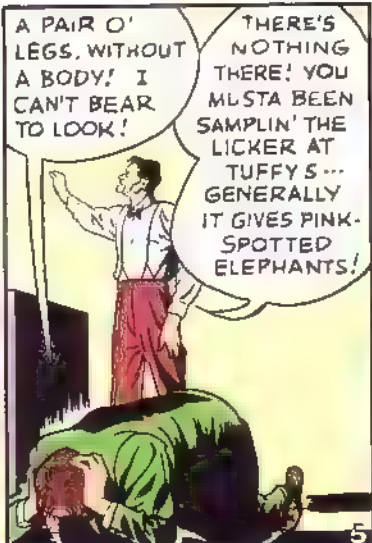
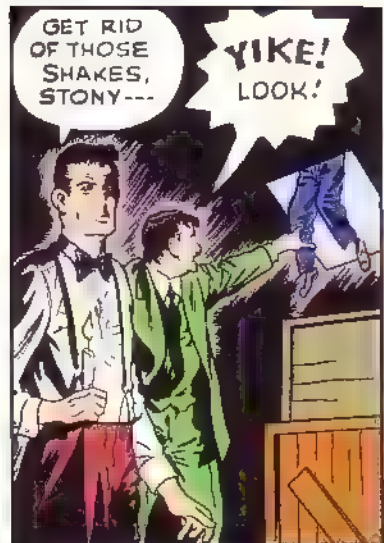
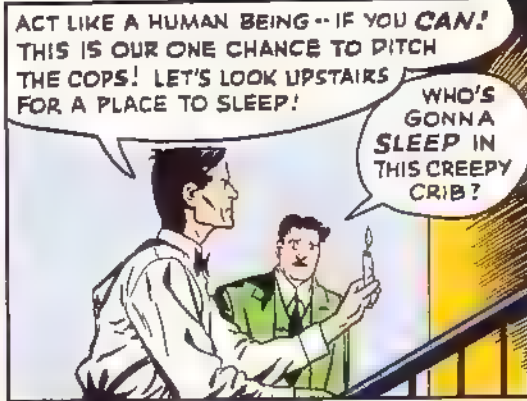
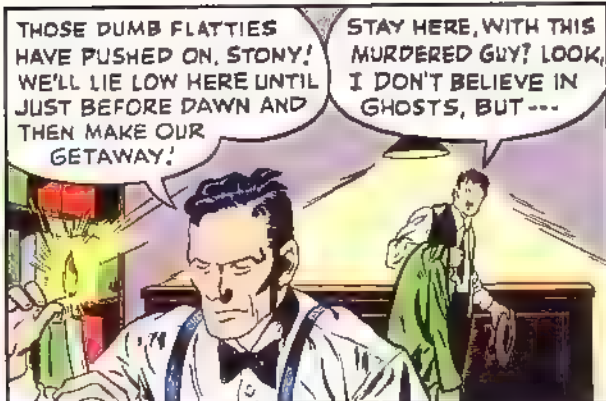


CAN'T BE TOLD FROM THE  
GENUINE ARTICLE! THROW IT  
IN THE STREET WHEN A  
SPEEDING CAR PASSES ---  
STOP 'EM AND MAKE 'EM  
PAY FOR KILLING  
YOUR CHICKEN ---

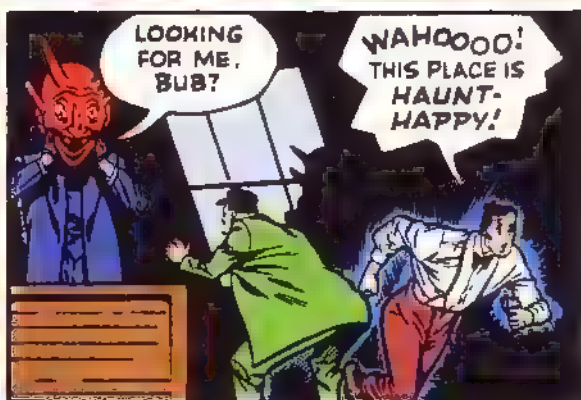
I'M AFTER  
SOMETHING  
SLIGHTLY LARGER  
---A COUPLE OF  
RACKET ROOSTERS  
WHO CAME THIS  
WAY!











I WAS STARTLED, JUST FOR THE MOMENT!  
WHEN MY PAL WAKES UP, I'LL PLUG YOU BOTH,  
JUST LIKE I PLUGGED THE GUY WHO  
OWNS THIS SCREWY STORE!

CAN'T WE  
PUT DOWN  
OUR ARMS?

KEEP 'EM UP, OR I'LL  
PLUG YOU WITHOUT  
WAITING FOR STONY  
TO SIT UP AND  
ENJOY IT!

IT'S A SHAME  
TO QUIT BEFORE  
WE SAMPLE ALL  
THE MERCHANDISE,  
SO-----

GET OUT  
OF RANGE,  
EBONY!

BANG

AH'LL GET  
THE SHOOTIN'  
IRON, MIST'  
SPIRIT BOSS!

TELL HIM TO  
PUT UP HIS  
HANDS---WHEN  
HE'S THROUGH  
SCRATCHING!

GET BACK TO THE KUTTUP  
SHOP, DOLAN! EBONY AND  
I HAVE YOUR TWO MISSING  
RACKETEERS---THEY'RE  
ITCHING TO SEE YOUR  
DE LUXE CELL!

I SUSPECTED THEM WHEN  
THEY TRIED TO SELL ME A  
**CHEATING TRICK**---A  
TYPICAL RACKETEER  
GAG!



COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

EYE, FEETS AND LOCK

August 12 1945

ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

# SPiRiT



Vaudeville starring **THE EYE**, Hypnotist--  
and Feet Foster in **TAP-HAPPY!**

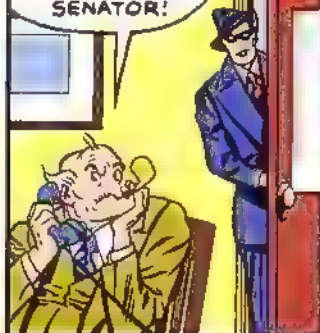
LOOKS LIKE  
A GOOD DAY  
FOR A SHOW,  
MIST' SPIRIT  
BOSS!

HMMM! LOOKS LIKE  
SOME LIKELY CITIZENS  
FEEL THE SAME WAY!  
I'M GOING TO SEE  
DOLAN!



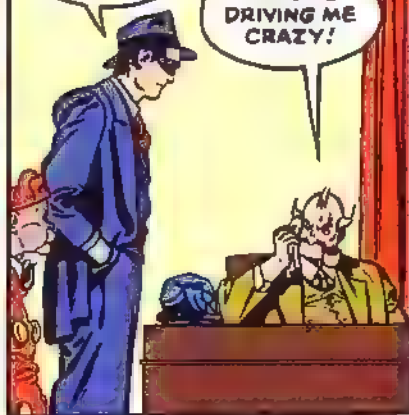
At police headquarters...

NO, SENATOR, I HAVEN'T  
CAUGHT UP WITH THE  
SNEAK THIEVES YET!  
YES, SENATOR! NO,  
SENATOR! YES,  
SENATOR!



ANOTHER  
HEADACHE,  
I SEE!

DON'T BOTHER  
ME, SPIRIT!  
THIS CRIME  
WAVE IS  
DRIVING ME  
CRAZY!



WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THE DAY  
OFF AND GO TO THE THEATRE?  
SOME OF OUR MOST UNSAVORY  
CHARACTERS ARE DOING  
IT NOWADAYS!

LISTEN HERE,  
SPIRIT, DO YOU  
MEAN TO  
INSINUATE...?  
OH, WHAT'S  
THE USE?!



I'M TELLING YOU SOMETHING!  
I JUST SAW THE LOCK AND  
HIS HOUSEBREAKING PAL,  
BENNY, GO INTO THE  
CENTRAL THEATRE!

SINCE  
WHEN IS THAT  
A CRIME? YOU'RE  
SLIPPING, SPIRIT!  
WE CAN'T ARREST  
A MAN FOR  
SEEING A  
SHOW!



JUST SEEING A COUPLE OF  
GUYS LIKE BENNY AND THE  
LOCK SHOULD BE CASE  
ENOUGH FOR ARREST! BUT  
THEN YOU HAVE  
THE LAW TO  
CONSIDER!

YES, AND I  
WISH YOU'D  
CONSIDER IT  
A LITTLE MORE!  
WHERE ARE  
YOU GOING?

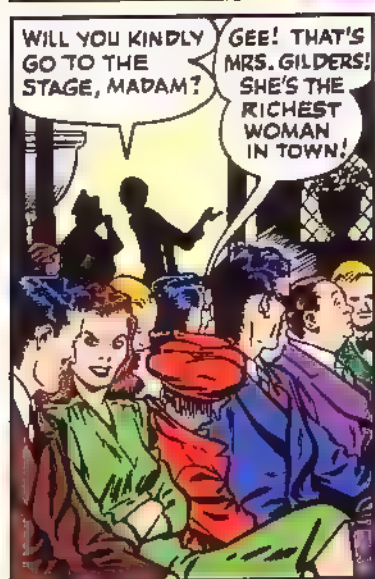
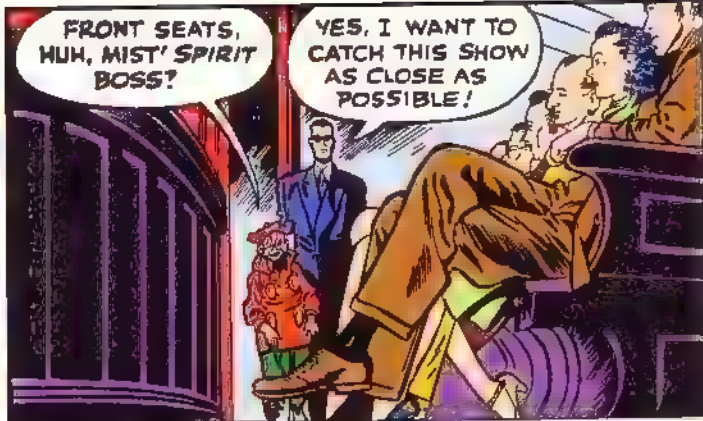
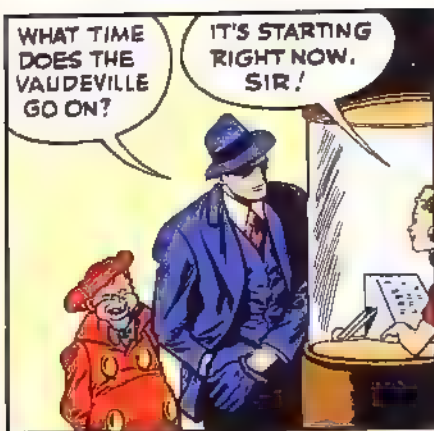


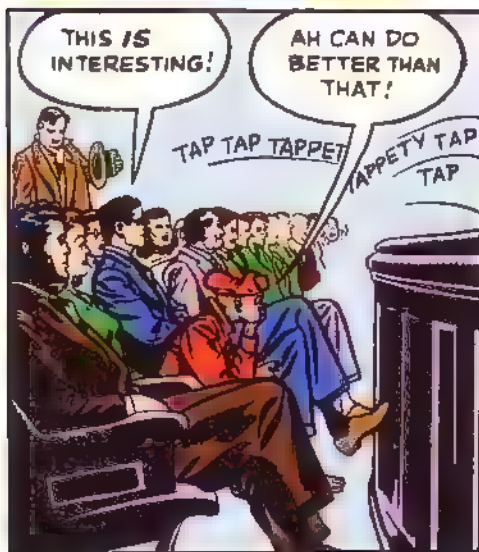
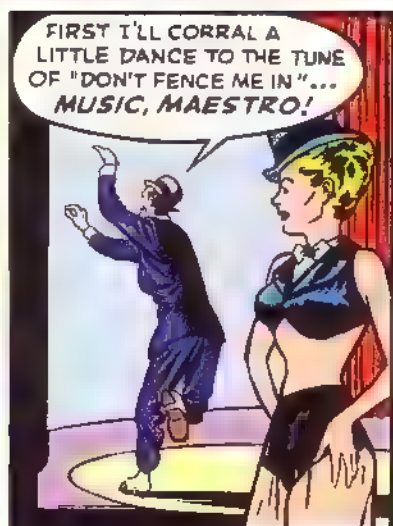
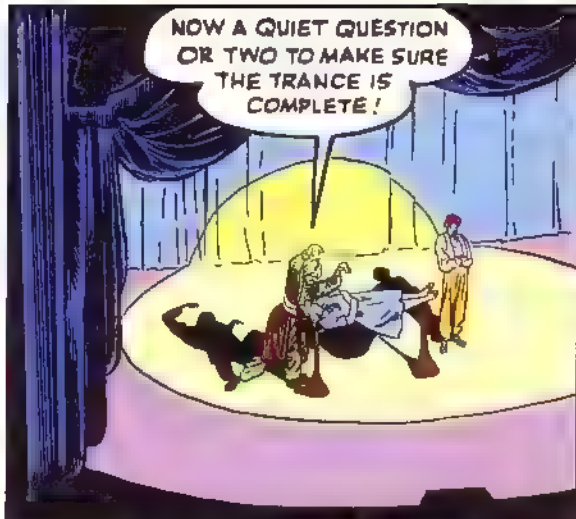
SINCE YOU WON'T  
GO ALONG, I'LL  
TAKE EBONY  
TO THE SHOW!  
TA-TA!

OF ALL  
THE ZANY  
IDEAS!

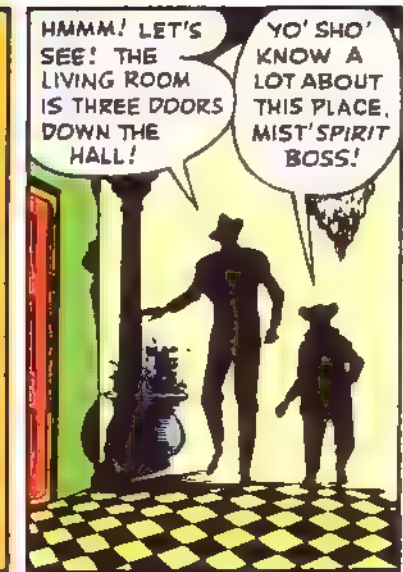
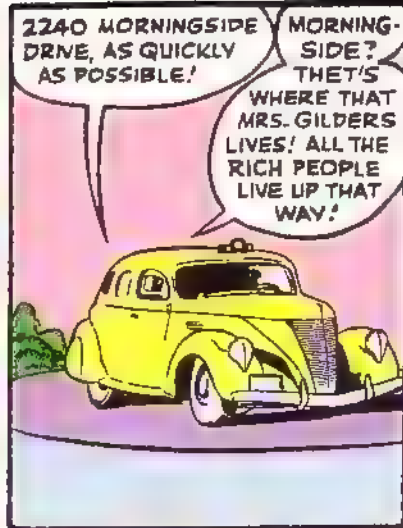
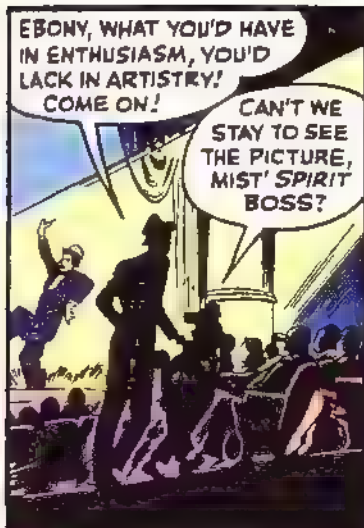


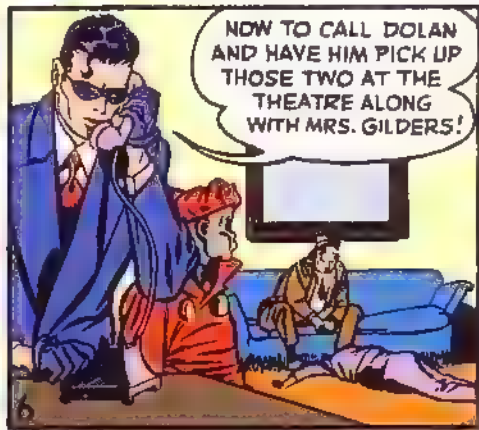
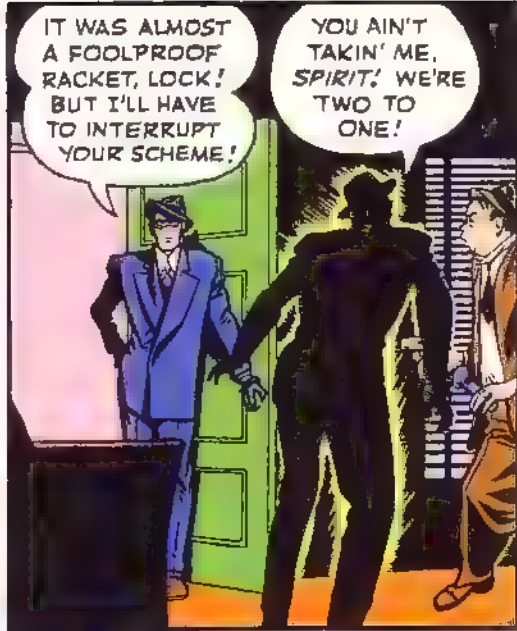




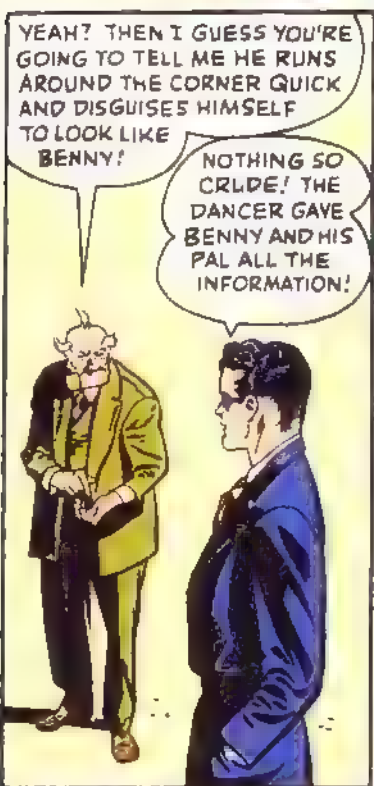










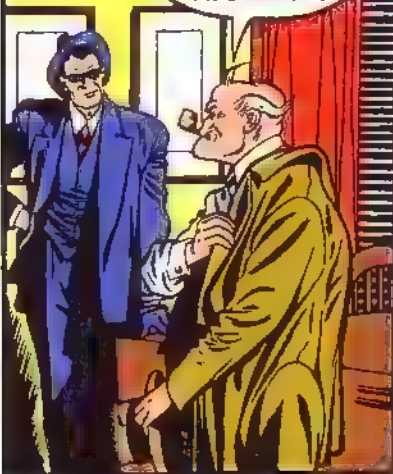




Central City's Commissioner of Police has a **FAVOR** to ask...

YOU WANT ME TO GO ON A CASE WITH YOU?

IT ISN'T A **CRIME** CASE EXACTLY, SPIRIT! IT'S A QUESTION OF ART-- AND I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ART!



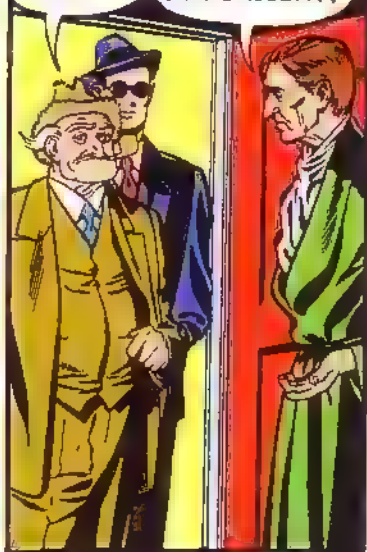
VICKRAM, THE ART COLLECTOR, SENT ME A CONFIDENTIAL NOTE! SAID HE WOULD DO THE CITY A **GREAT FAVOR**!

THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE VICKRAM, DOLAN! HE'S AN ART CRITIC--BUT A **STINGY** ONE!



MR. VICKRAM, I'M DOLAN! I CAME IN ANSWER TO YOUR MESSAGE!

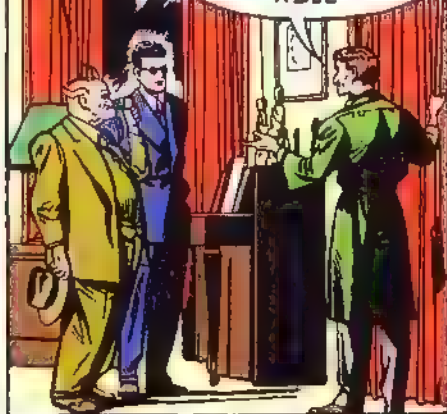
YES--A--IT'S IN CONNECTION WITH LAST YEAR'S THEFT FROM THE **MUNICIPAL ART GALLERY**!





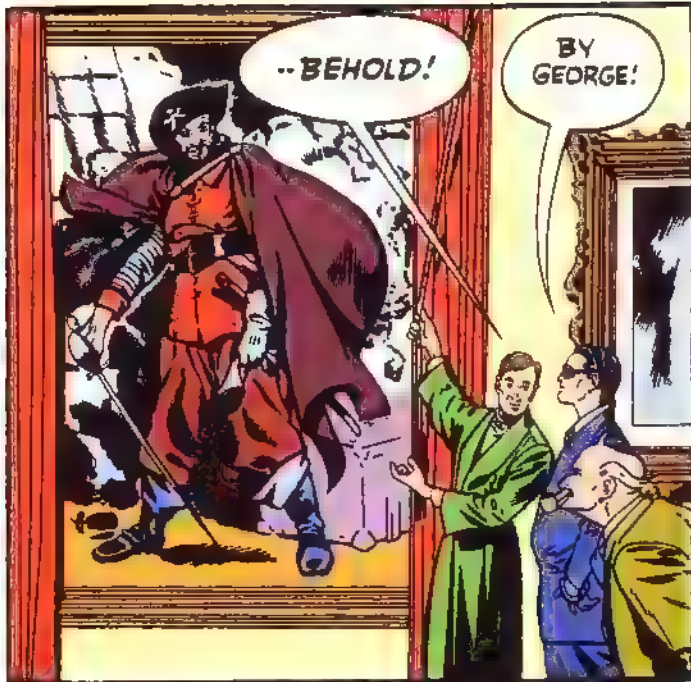
YES--- UNKNOWN BURGLARS STOLE  
A VALUABLE PICTURE! MY DAUGHTER  
DRAGGED ME TO SEE IT A FEW  
YEARS AGO!

THE PURPLE  
PIRATE! A CLASSIC  
PAINTING BY GURAVITCH!  
WORTH A FORTUNE!  
WELL---



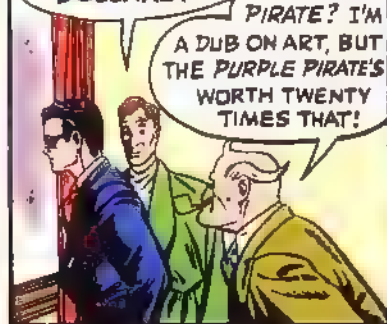
--BEHOLD!

BY  
GEORGE!



YESTERDAY I WAS INTERVIEWED  
BY TWO MASKED MEN! THEY  
SAID THEY'D SELL ME A  
PRICELESS PAINTING  
FOR TEN THOUSAND  
DOLLARS!

THE  
PURPLE  
PIRATE? I'M  
A DUB ON ART, BUT  
THE PURPLE PIRATE'S  
WORTH TWENTY  
TIMES THAT!



BUT THOSE WHO STOLE IT  
WERE WILLING TO LET IT GO  
CHEAP! I BOUGHT IT TO  
RETURN TO THE CITY  
GALLERIES--MY  
PUBLIC DUTY---

YOU'RE A  
REAL FRIEND,  
VICKRAM! AND  
YOU'LL GET YOUR  
TEN THOUSAND  
BACK, IF THE  
PICTURE IS  
GENUINE!



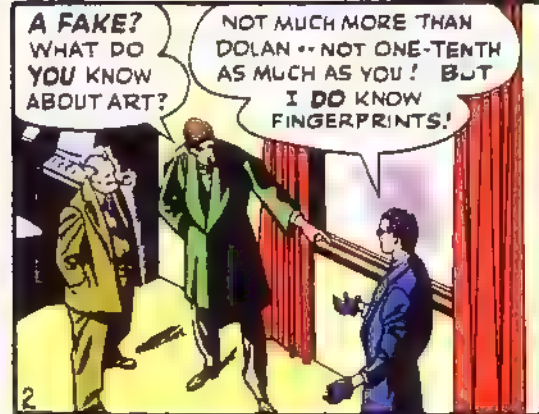
AS AN ART CRITIC,  
I CAN ASSURE YOU  
IT'S THE REAL  
GURAVITCH!

WAIT!  
IT'S A  
FAKE--  
SPLENDIDLY  
DONE BUT  
A FAKE!



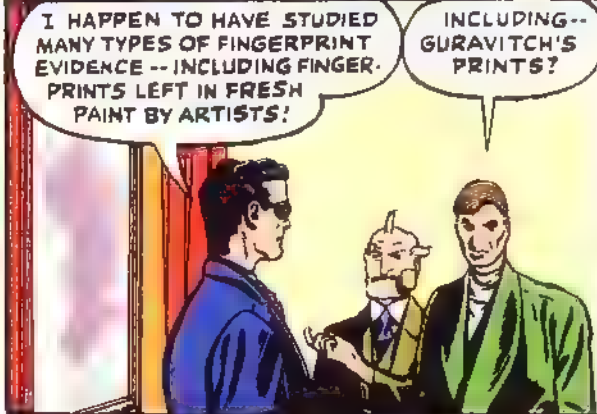
A FAKE?  
WHAT DO  
YOU KNOW  
ABOUT ART?

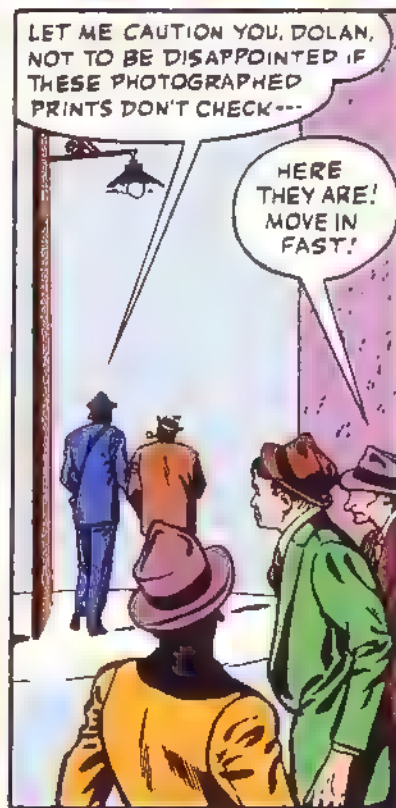
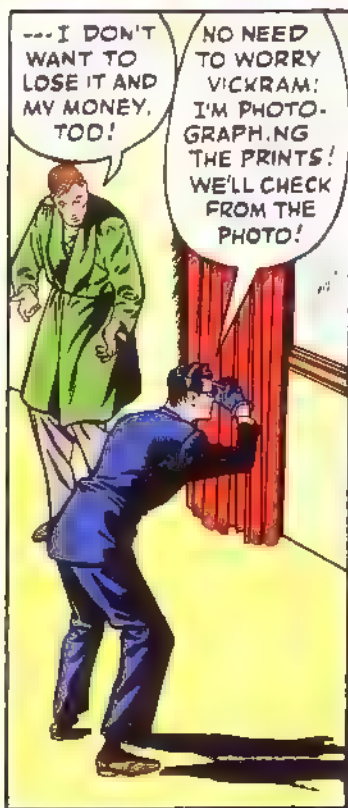
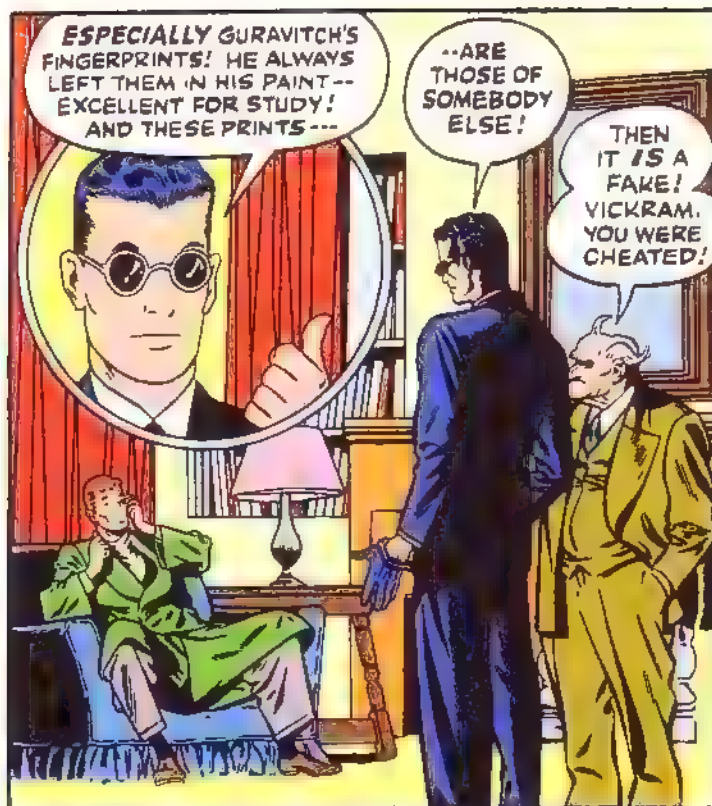
NOT MUCH MORE THAN  
DOLAN -- NOT ONE-TENTH  
AS MUCH AS YOU! BUT  
I DO KNOW  
FINGERPRINTS!



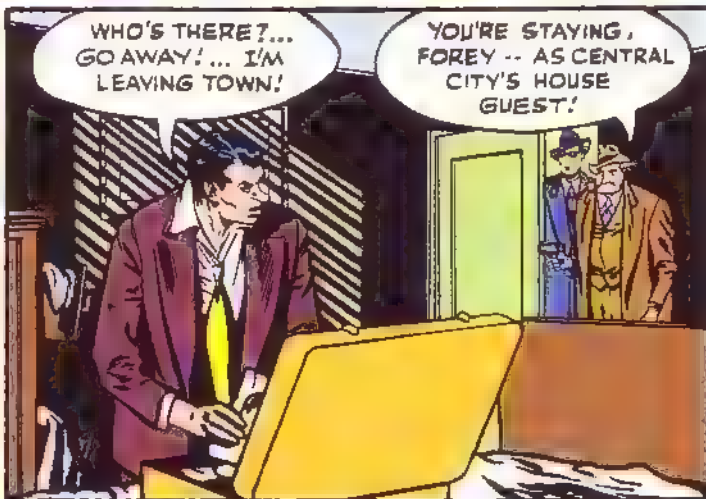
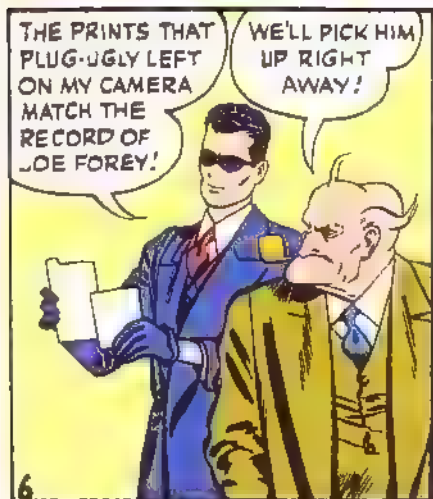
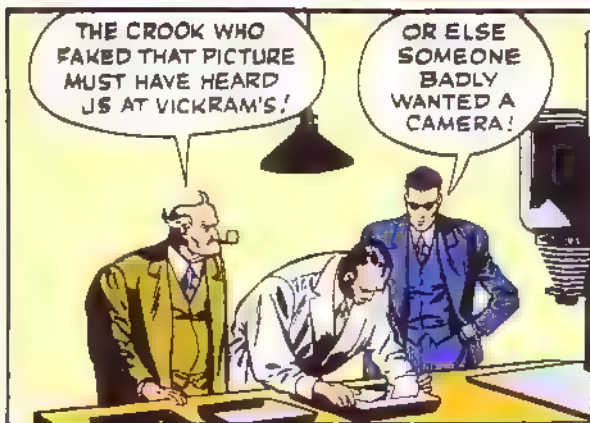
I HAPPEN TO HAVE STUDIED  
MANY TYPES OF FINGERPRINT  
EVIDENCE -- INCLUDING FINGER-  
PRINTS LEFT IN FRESH  
PAINT BY ARTISTS!

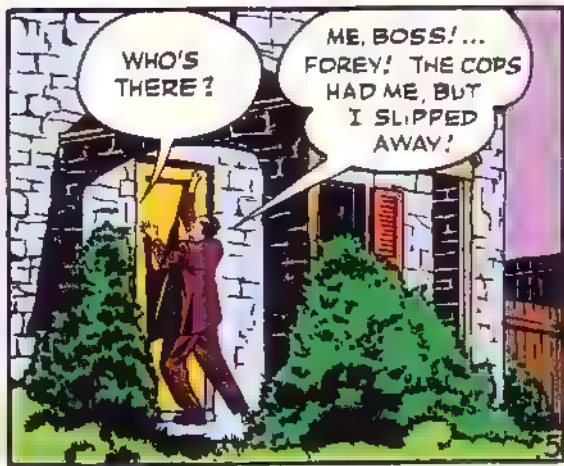
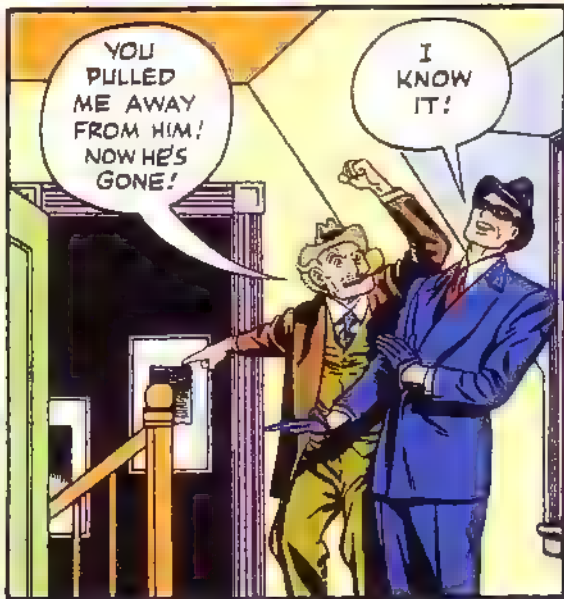
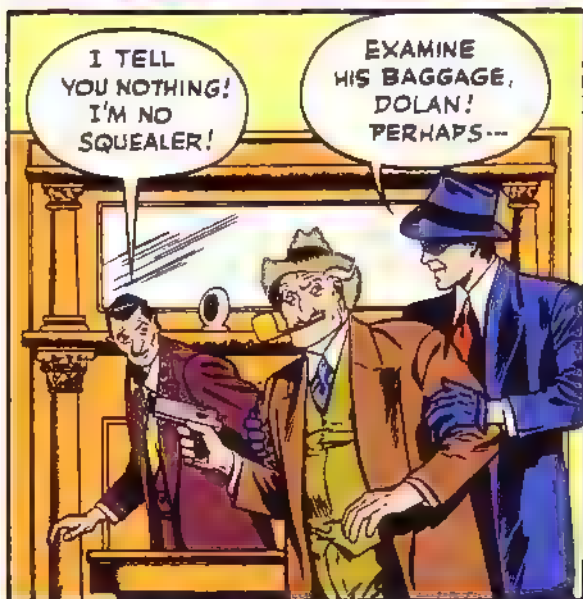
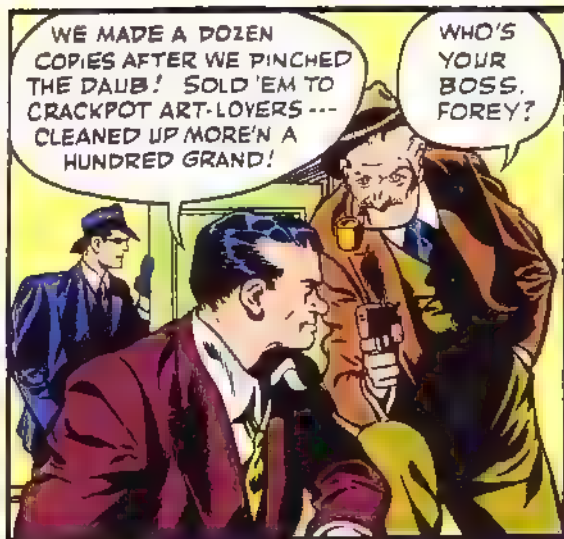
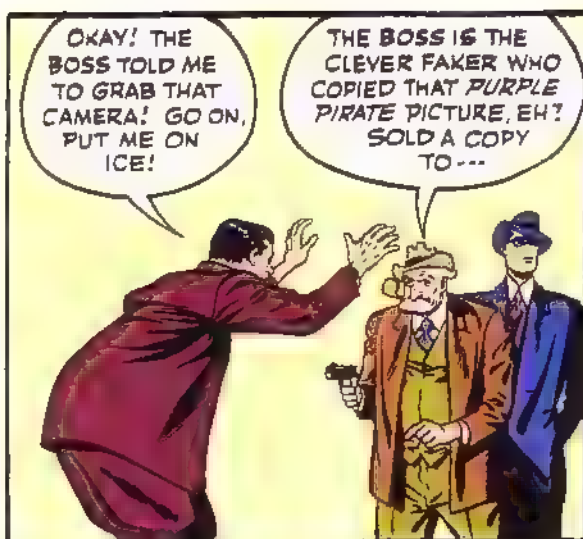
INCLUDING--  
GURAVITCH'S  
PRINTS?



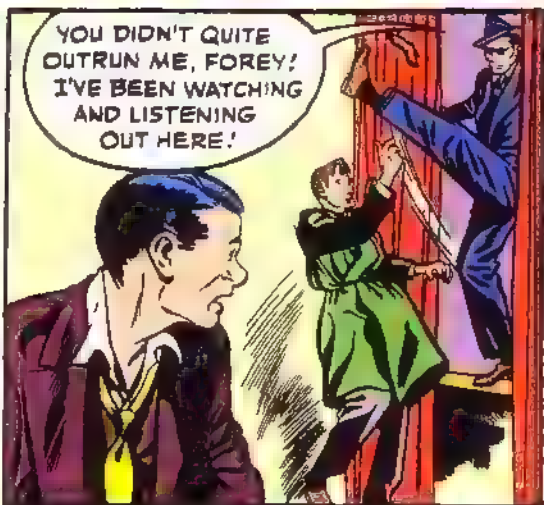
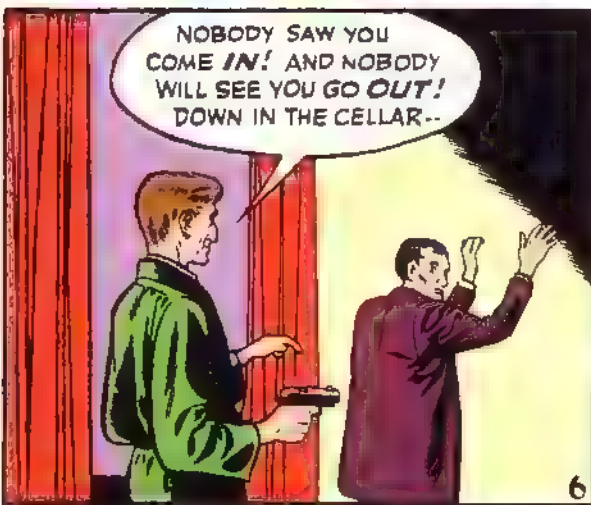
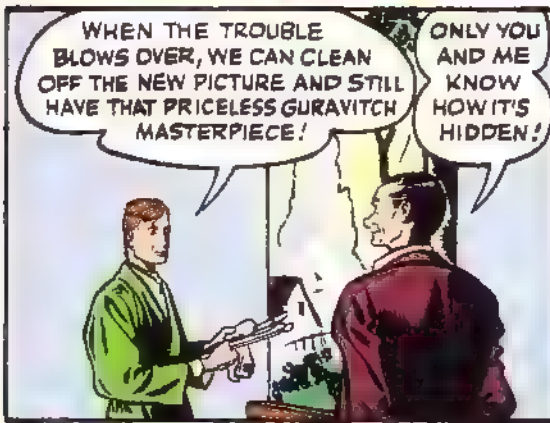
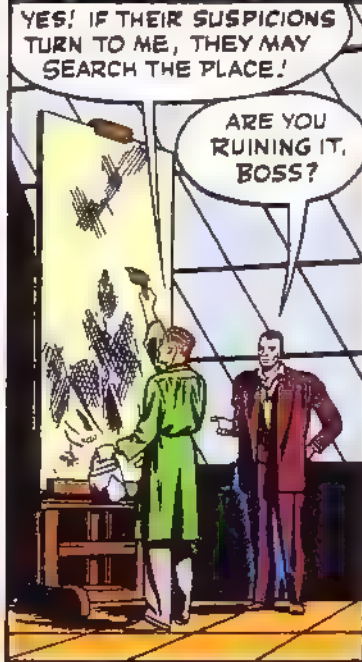


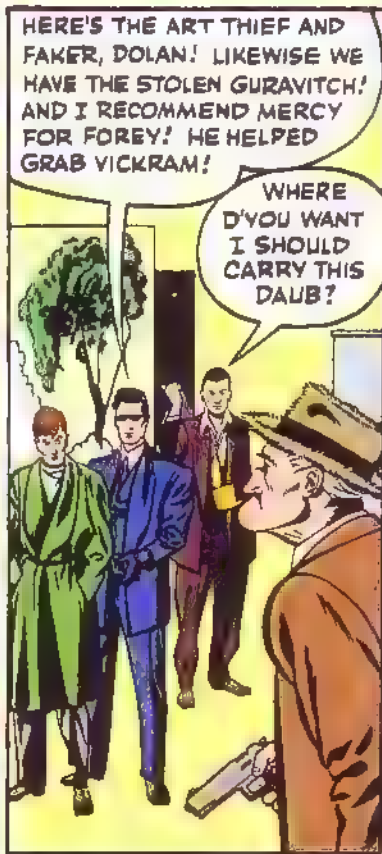














# THE SPIRIT

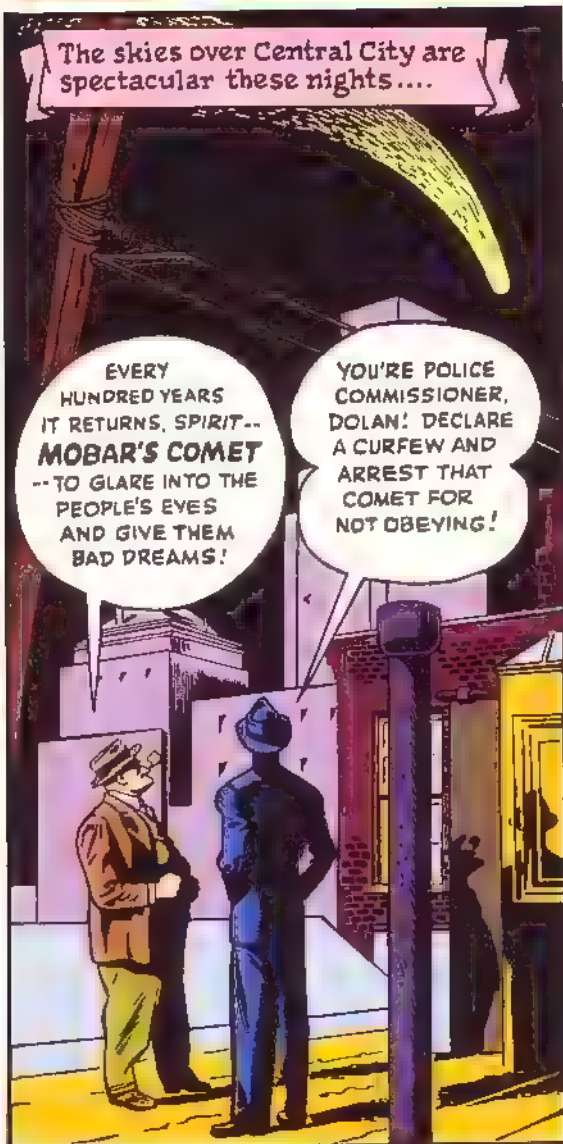
The skies over Central City are spectacular these nights....

EVERY  
HUNDRED YEARS  
IT RETURNS, SPIRIT--  
**MOBAR'S COMET**  
--TO GLARE INTO THE  
PEOPLE'S EYES  
AND GIVE THEM  
BAD DREAMS!

YOU'RE POLICE  
COMMISSIONER,  
DOLAN! DECLARE  
A CURFEW AND  
ARREST THAT  
COMET FOR  
NOT OBEYING!

YOU'D NOT LAUGH IF  
YOU REMEMBERED  
THE OLD STORY!  
EVERY TIME MOBAR'S  
COMET PASSES, A  
**CRIME WAVE**  
BREAKS OUT!

PEOPLE  
BELIEVED  
SUCH THINGS  
A CENTURY AGO--  
COME UP TO DATE  
AND BE  
SCIENTIFIC!



On the edge of town ---  
**ASTROLOGER'S ROCK**  
and its strange master ---

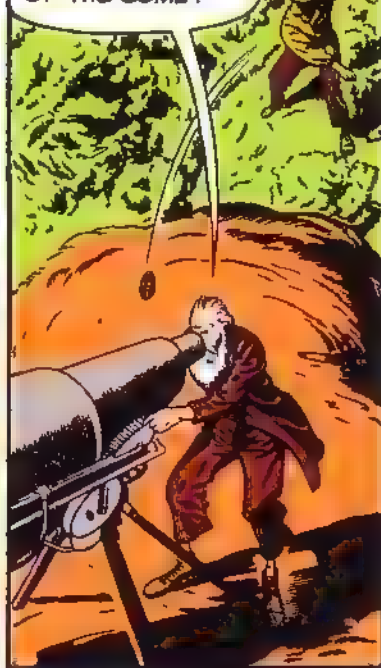
I -- THE LAST  
DESCENDANT OF THE  
STAR-GAZER MOBAR  
WHO FIRST SAW THAT  
COMET --- HAVE A  
DUTY TO  
PERFORM!



THE ANCIENT ASTRONOMERS  
COULD LEARN LITTLE ABOUT  
IT! BUT TODAY, WITH  
**MODERN TELESCOPES  
AND KNOWLEDGE** ---



I'LL FINISH THE WORK  
OF MY ANCESTOR! FIND  
THE **SECRET**  
OF THE COMET---



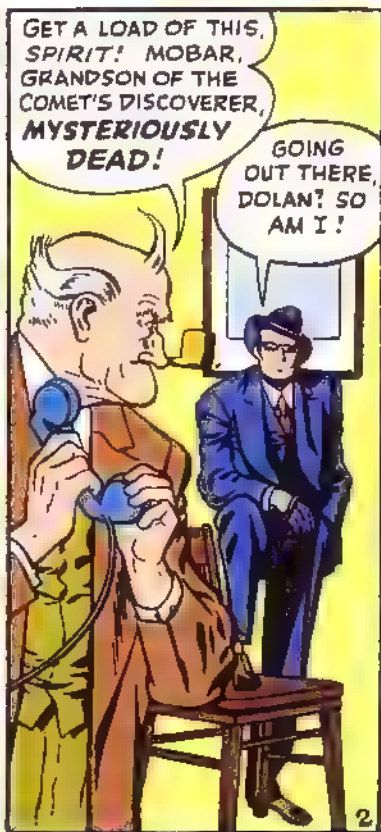
YEP, SARGE! ON  
ASTROLOGER'S  
ROCK --- A BLAST,  
AND WHEN I  
GOT THERE,  
I FOUND  
MOBAR ---  
DEAD BESIDE  
HIS SPYGLASS!

THIS IS  
THE KINDA  
CASE THE  
COMMISSIONER  
ALWAYS WANTS  
REPORTED  
TO HIM!

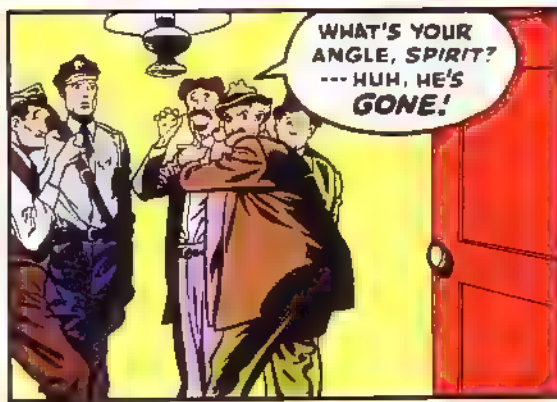
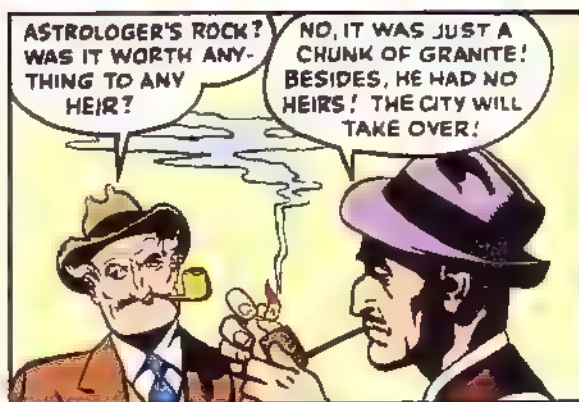
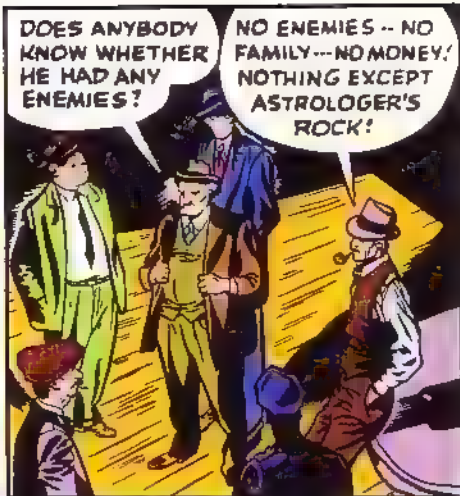
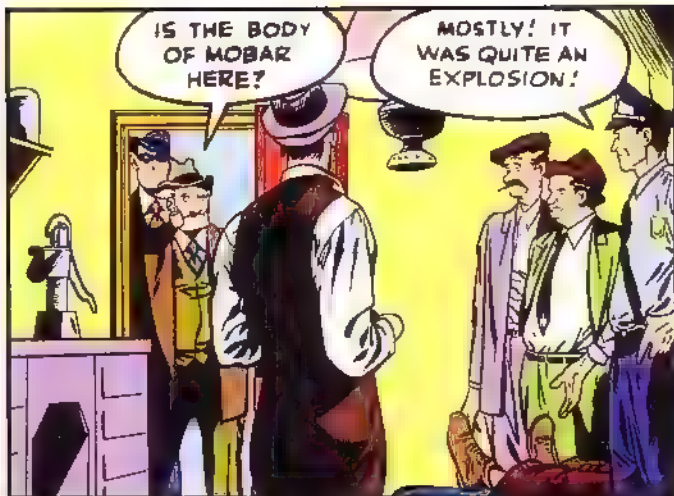


GET A LOAD OF THIS,  
SPIRIT! MOBAR,  
GRANDSON OF THE  
COMET'S DISCOVERER,  
**MYSTERIOUSLY  
DEAD!**

GOING  
OUT THERE,  
DOLAN? SO  
AM I!









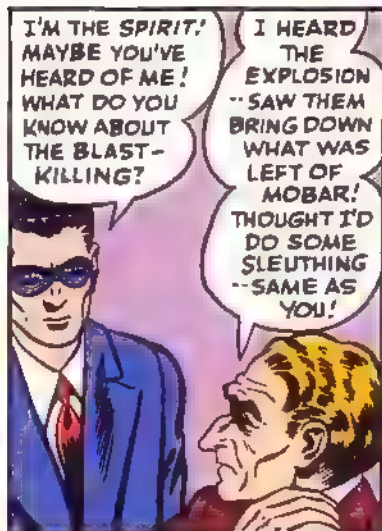
DON'T CHOKE ME! HELP...  
**POLICE!**  
PO---

QUIET DOWN, OR  
I'LL SHUT  
OFF THE  
METER  
ALTOGETHER!



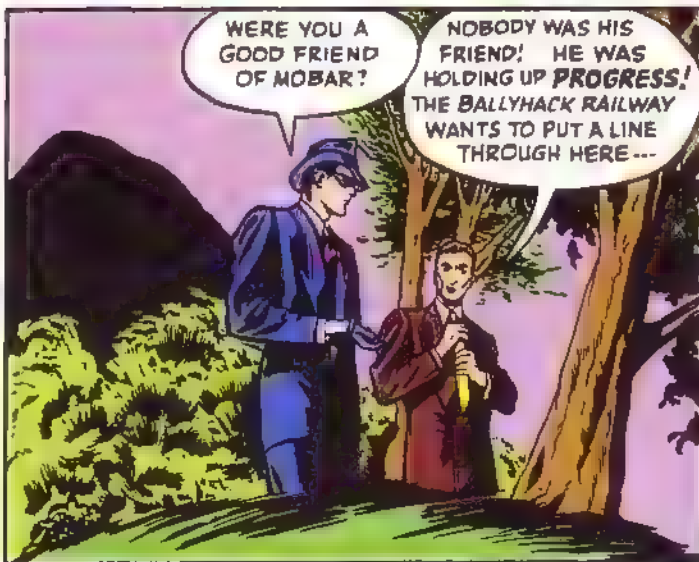
ARE YOU THE  
KILLER.  
RETURNING  
TO THE SCENE  
OF YOUR  
CRIME?

NO --- I'M  
BOB THORBIN  
---MOBAR'S  
NEIGHBOR!  
I FIGURED  
YOU FOR THE  
GUILTY  
PARTY!



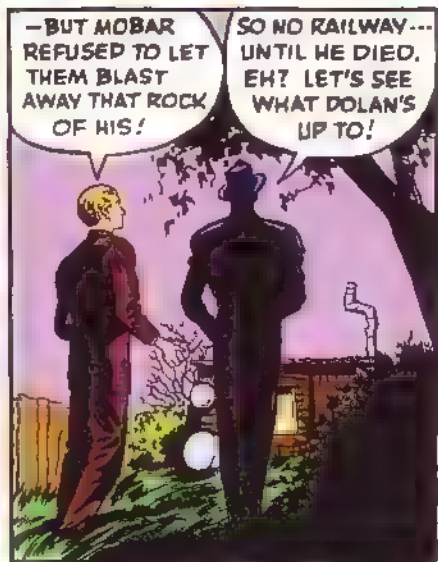
I'M THE SPIRIT!  
MAYBE YOU'VE  
HEARD OF ME!  
WHAT DO YOU  
KNOW ABOUT  
THE BLAST-  
KILLING?

I HEARD  
THE  
EXPLOSION  
--SAW THEM  
BRING DOWN  
WHAT WAS  
LEFT OF  
MOBAR!  
THOUGHT I'D  
DO SOME  
SLEUTHING  
--SAME AS  
YOU!



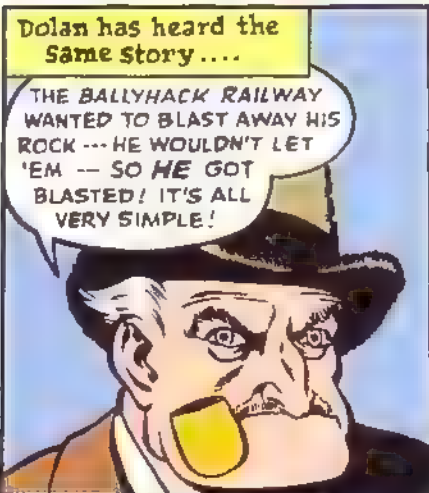
WERE YOU A  
GOOD FRIEND  
OF MOBAR?

NOBODY WAS HIS  
FRIEND! HE WAS  
HOLDING UP **PROGRESS!**  
THE BALLYHACK RAILWAY  
WANTS TO PUT A LINE  
THROUGH HERE ---



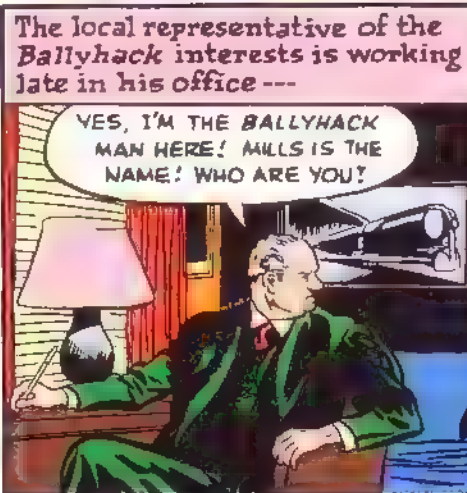
--BUT MOBAR  
REFUSED TO LET  
THEM BLAST  
AWAY THAT ROCK  
OF HIS!

SO NO RAILWAY ---  
UNTIL HE DIED.  
EH? LET'S SEE  
WHAT DOLAN'S  
UP TO!



Dolan has heard the  
Same story ....

THE BALLYHACK RAILWAY  
WANTED TO BLAST AWAY HIS  
ROCK --- HE WOULDN'T LET  
'EM -- SO HE GOT  
BLASTED! IT'S ALL  
VERY SIMPLE!



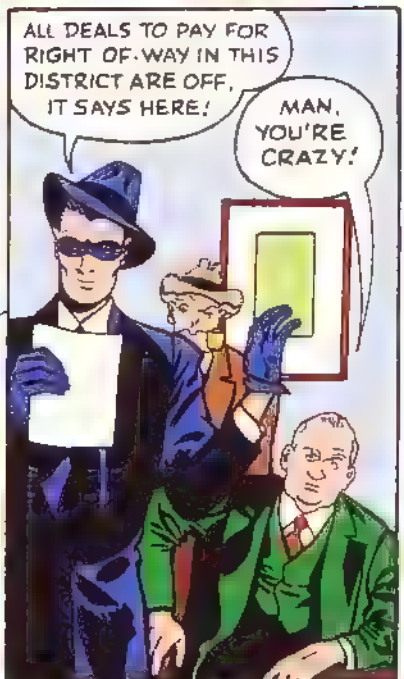
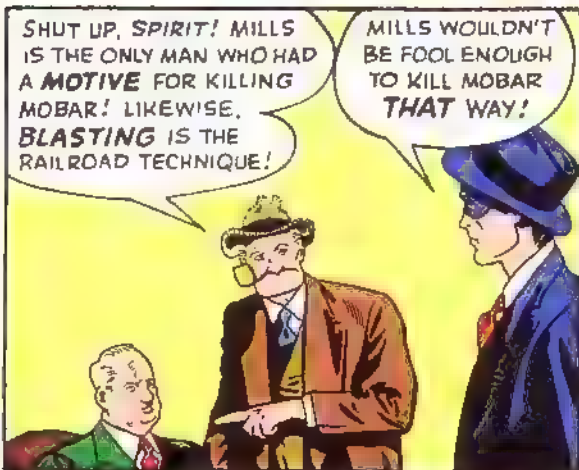
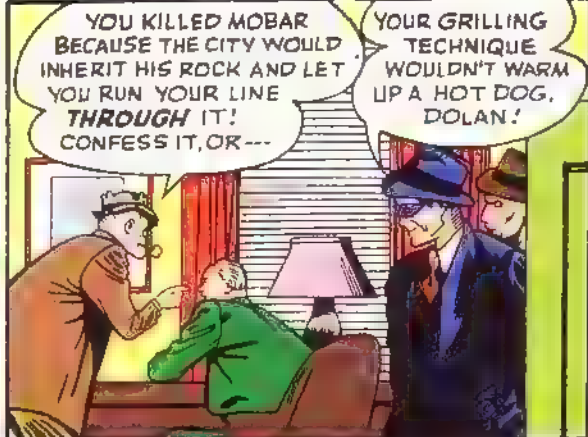
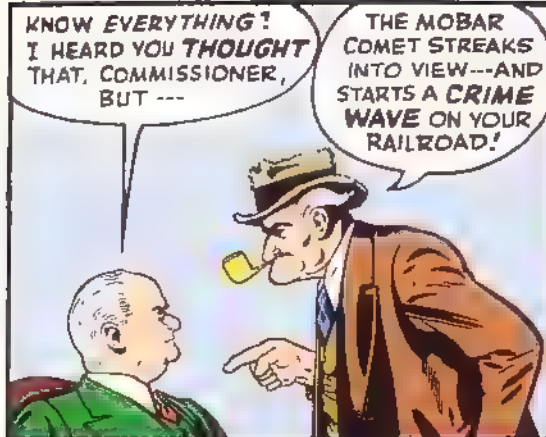
The local representative of the  
Ballyhack interests is working  
late in his office ---

YES, I'M THE BALLYHACK  
MAN HERE! MILLS IS THE  
NAME! WHO ARE YOU?



COMMISSIONER  
DOLAN ---AND  
I KNOW  
**EVERY-  
THING!**





THAT REPORT YOU'RE  
READING ... IT'S ---  
YOU'RE BEING  
**FANTASTIC---**

IT'S A  
FAKE, EH?  
THEN COME  
TO JAIL  
WITH ME!

JAIL, YOU SAY? IF THE  
ASTROLOGER'S ROCK PLAN  
IS STILL ON THE FIRE....

WELL, SINCE YOU  
FOUND THE REPORT,  
ALL RIGHT! WE DIDN'T  
WANT TO ALARM PEOPLE  
WHO COUNTED ON THE  
FIRST SCHEME, BUT  
WE **HAVE** DECIDED  
TO BUILD  
ELSEWHERE!

SO THAT  
CLEARS ME?  
WILL YOU LET  
ME GO?

NO RAILROAD?  
YOU MEAN ---  
**MY PROPERTY---**  
NEXT TO  
ASTROLOGER'S  
ROCK--DOESN'T  
SELL TO YOU?

LOOKS THAT WAY.  
THORBIN! WHY?

MY DEBTS! MY DEBTS!  
I CAN'T PAY THEM UNLESS  
THE RAILROAD BUYS! I  
MIGHT AS WELL DIE ---

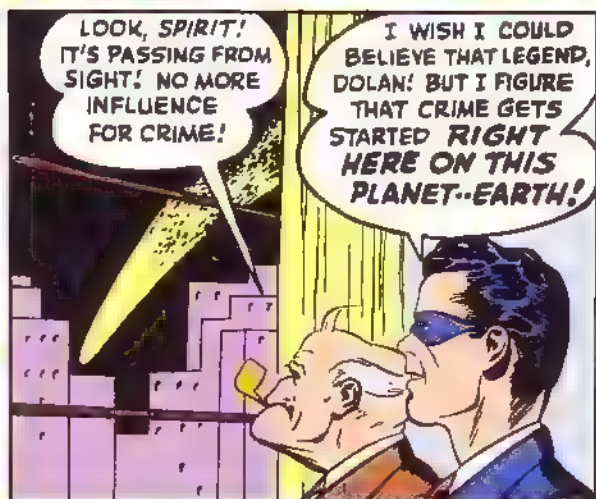
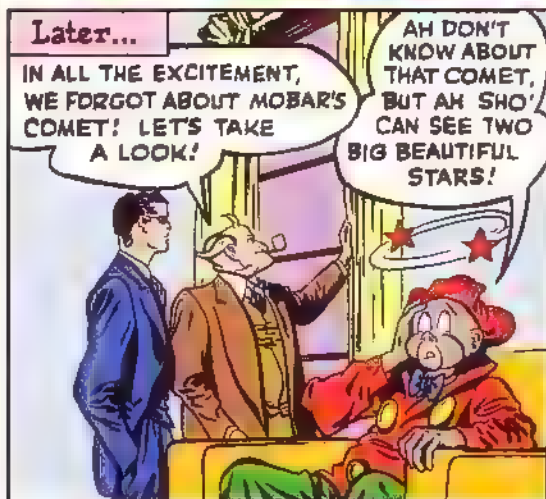
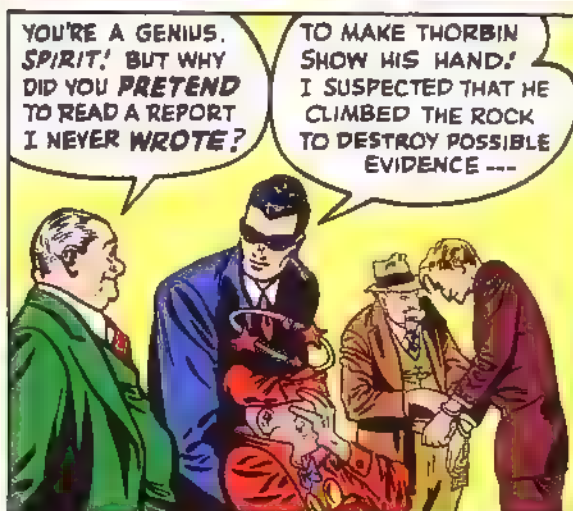
SO I'LL SET OFF THIS  
**OTHER BOMB!**  
JUST LIKE THE ONE THAT  
KILLED MOBAR!

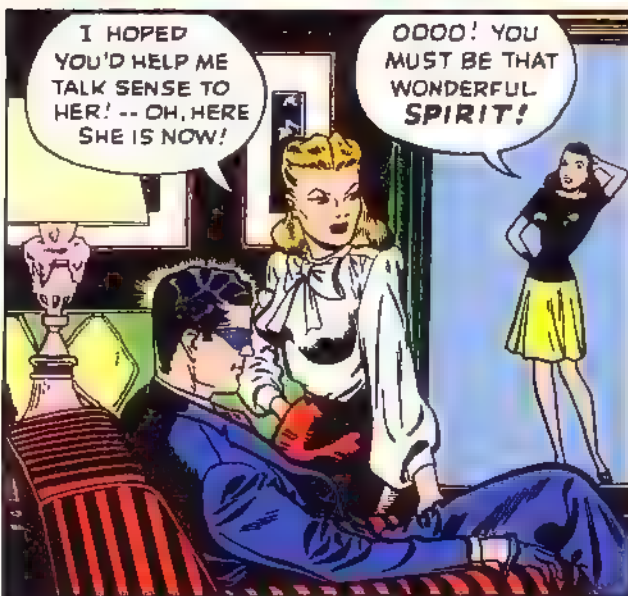
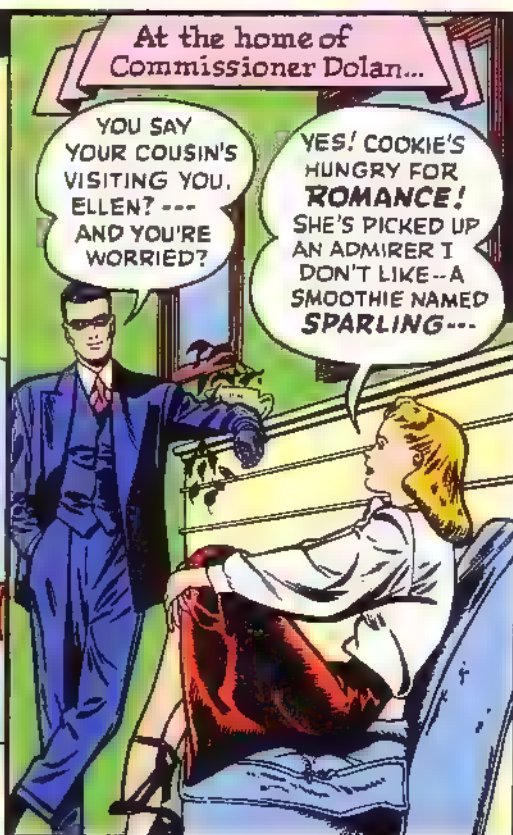
**WHAT?!**

I DID IT!  
NOW WE'LL  
**ALL DIE  
TOGETHER!**

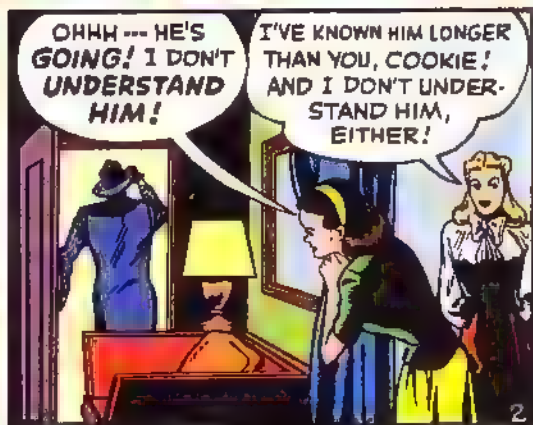
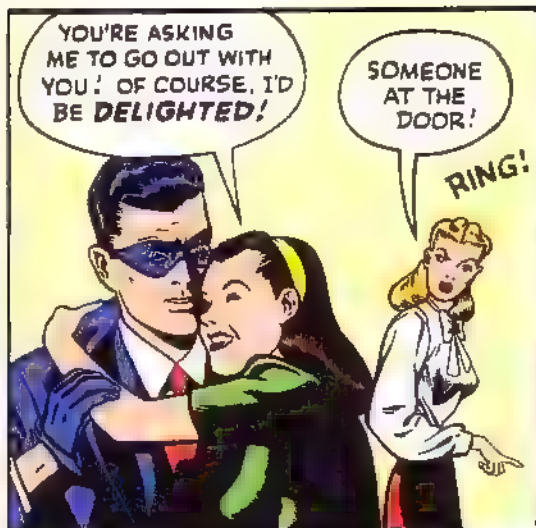
RUSH HIM! I'VE  
GOT THIS FIRECRACKER  
MUFFLED!











At Sparling's bachelor apartment...

WHO'S THERE?

SOMEONE WHO JUST A FEW MOMENTS AGO SAID GOODBYE!

HUH? COME IN!  
-- OH, IT'S YOU, SPIRIT!

I JUST GOT A FUNNY PHONE CALL, SPARLING! SUPPOSE YOU EXPLAIN!

ARE YOU KIDDING? COOKIE WENT FOR YOU-- SO I BOWED OUT!

AND A MOMENT LATER, SOMEBODY TELEPHONED ME! ONLY YOU KNEW WHAT HAD HAPPENED ---IT WAS YOU OR SOMEONE WHO CALLED FOR YOU!

NOW SPEAK UP, OR I'LL ---

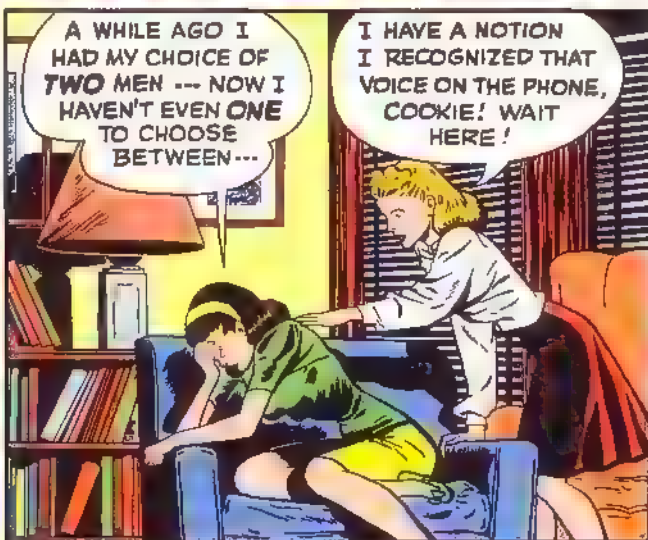
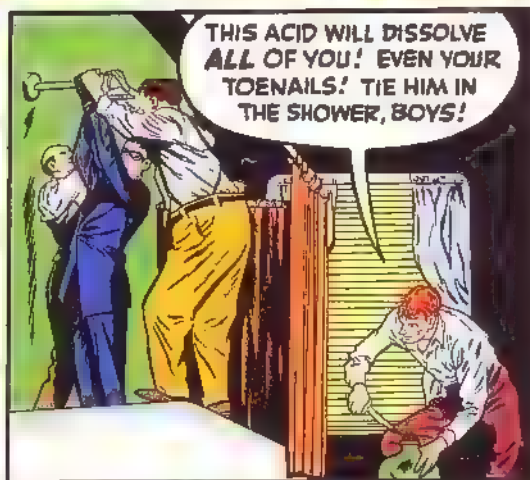
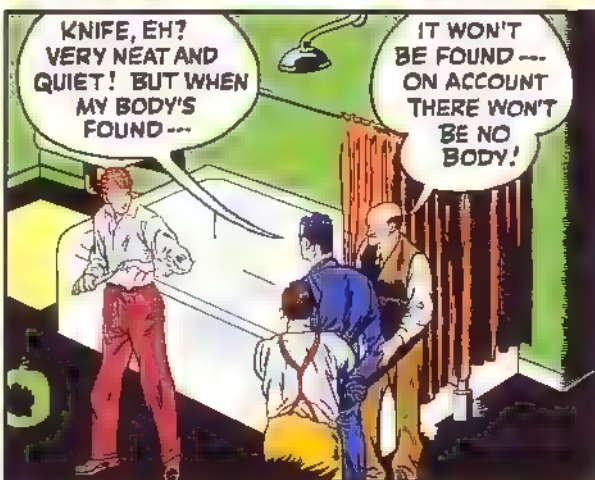
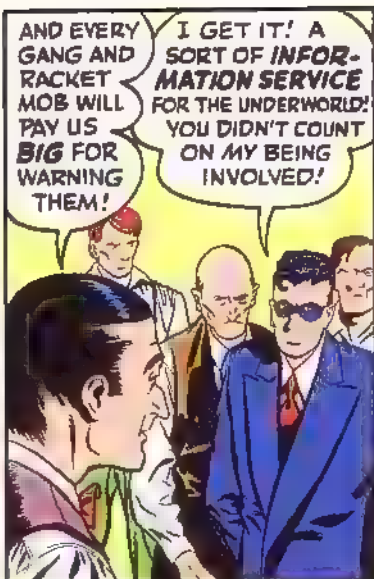
I'LL SPEAK UP! COME ON, MEN! GRAB HIM!

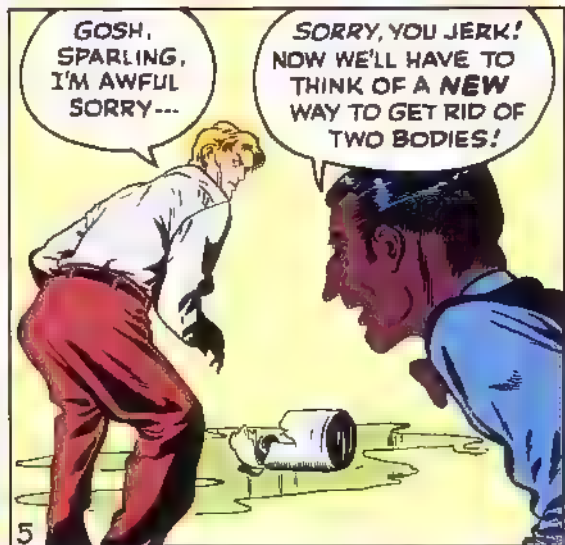
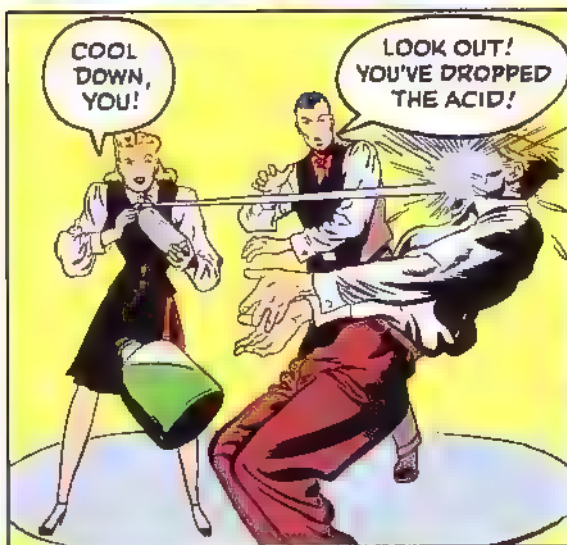
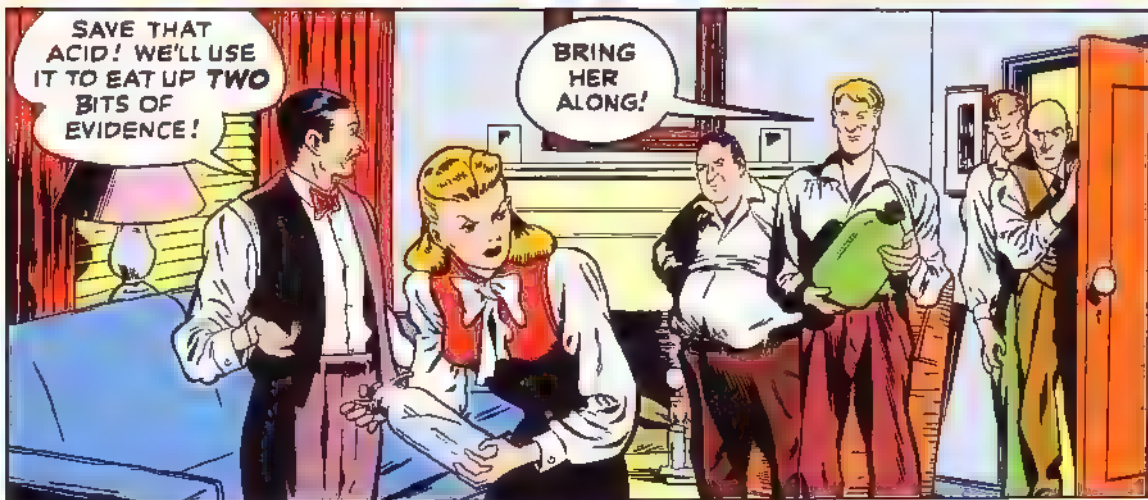
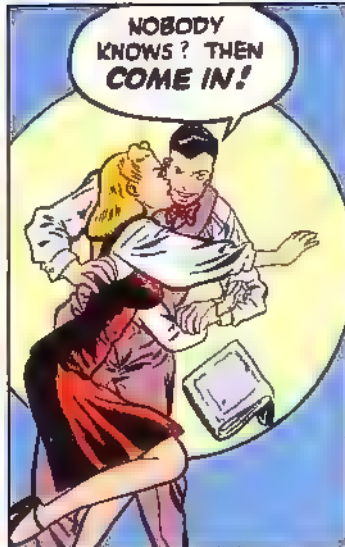
SO I WAS RIGHT!

YES! BECAUSE I KNEW THAT SORT OF A THREAT WOULD BRING YOU RUNNING TO WHERE WE COULD GRAB YOU!

I'VE BEEN ROMANCING COOKIE FOR A GOOD REASON! SHE'S LIVING IN DOLAN'S HOUSE --- THROUGH HER I'D LEARN A LOT ABOUT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S ACTIVITIES!







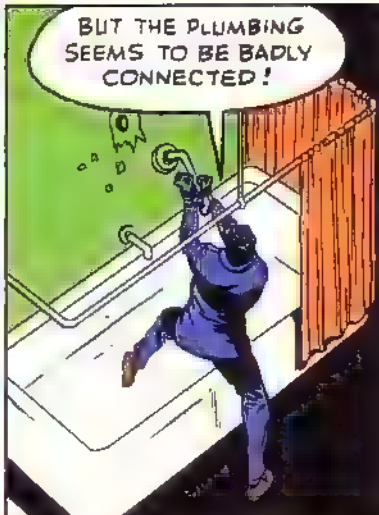


Left alone for the moment,  
the Spirit strives to free  
himself ---

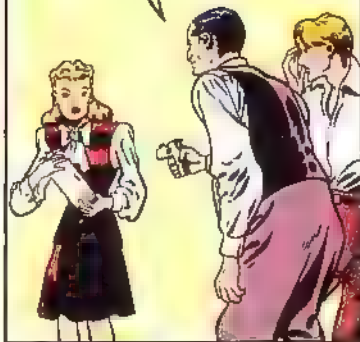
THE ROPE  
IS STRONG...  
WELL TIED...



BUT THE PLUMBING  
SEEMS TO BE BADLY  
CONNECTED!



MAYBE THE BEST WAY  
IS THE OLD-FASHIONED  
WAY... A HUNK OF LEAD  
FOR THE LADY. THEN  
FOR THE SPIRIT...



WHERE ARE MY  
HOSTS? IT'S BAD  
FORM TO LEAVE A  
VISITOR ALONE ---



IT'S WORSE  
FORM TO POINT,  
ESPECIALLY  
WITH A GUN!

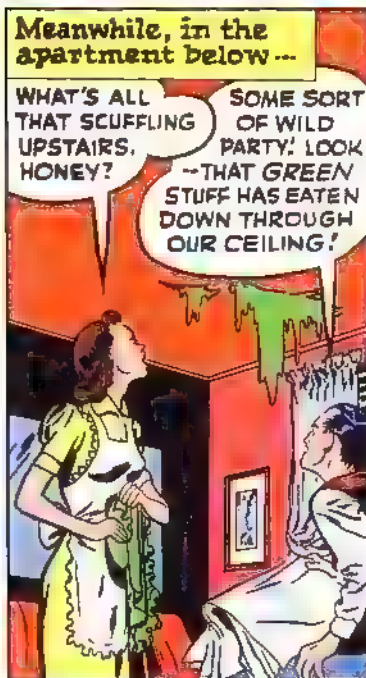
HE'S LOOSE!  
TACKLE  
HIM!



Meanwhile, in the  
apartment below ---

WHAT'S ALL  
THAT SCUFFLING  
UPSTAIRS,  
HONEY?

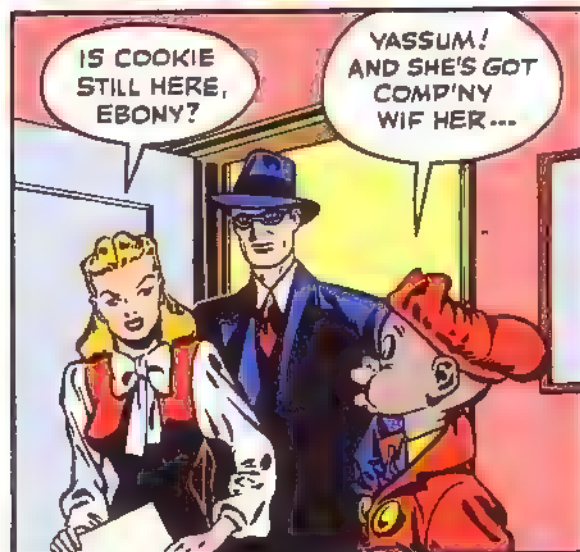
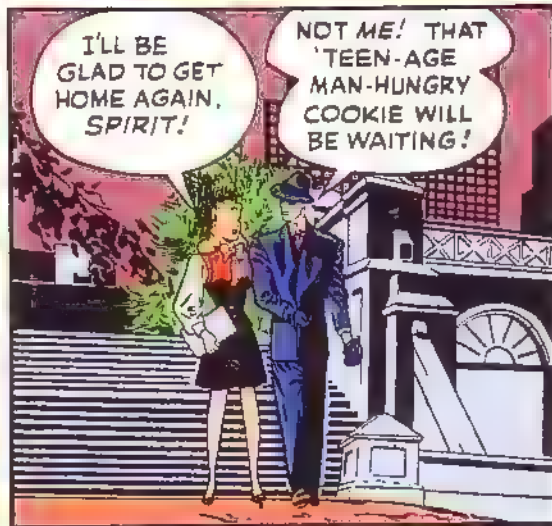
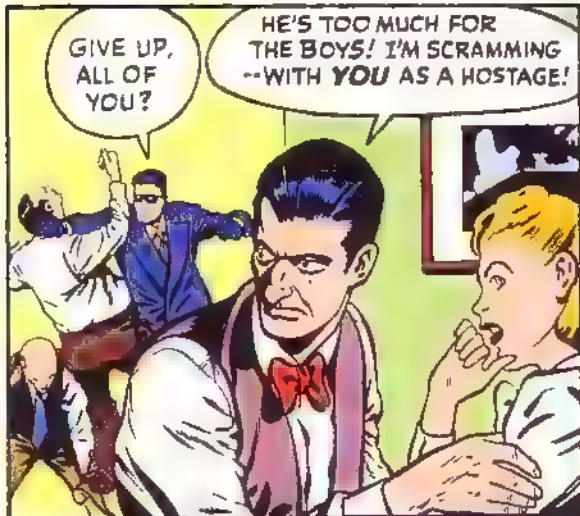
SOME SORT  
OF WILD  
PARTY! LOOK  
--THAT GREEN  
STUFF HAS EATEN  
DOWN THROUGH  
OUR CEILING!



FINISH HIM!  
HE'S ONLY ONE  
AGAINST ALL  
OF YOU---

THAT'S  
THE TROUBLE...  
THERE'S SO  
MANY OF US  
TO HIT!







**COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION**

Copyright 1945, by Everett M. Arnold

# RECORD PHILADELPHIA

**ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1945



Police Commissioner Dolan at last has a lead on Central City's newest crime threat...

WE KNOW THAT GANG ROBBED YOUR HOUSE AT PISTOL POINT, MR. DURAND! TELL US EVERYTHING, SO THAT WE ---

I DON'T DARE, COMMISSIONER! BECAUSE THEY KIDNAPPED MY WIFE!

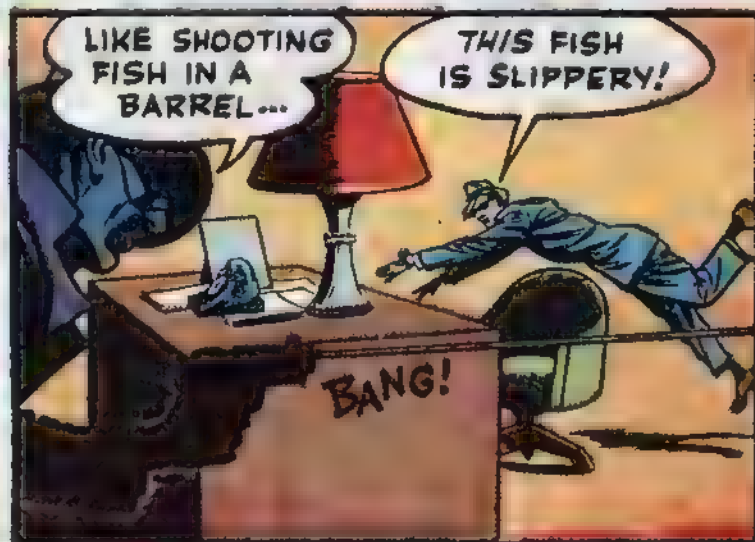
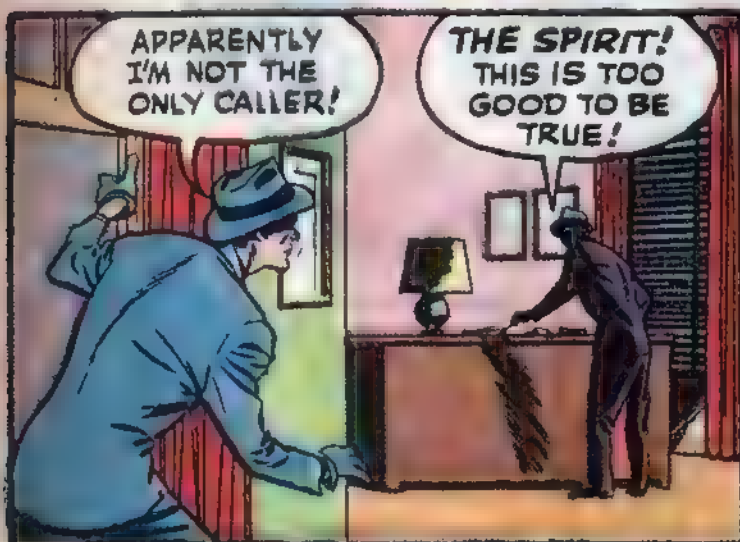
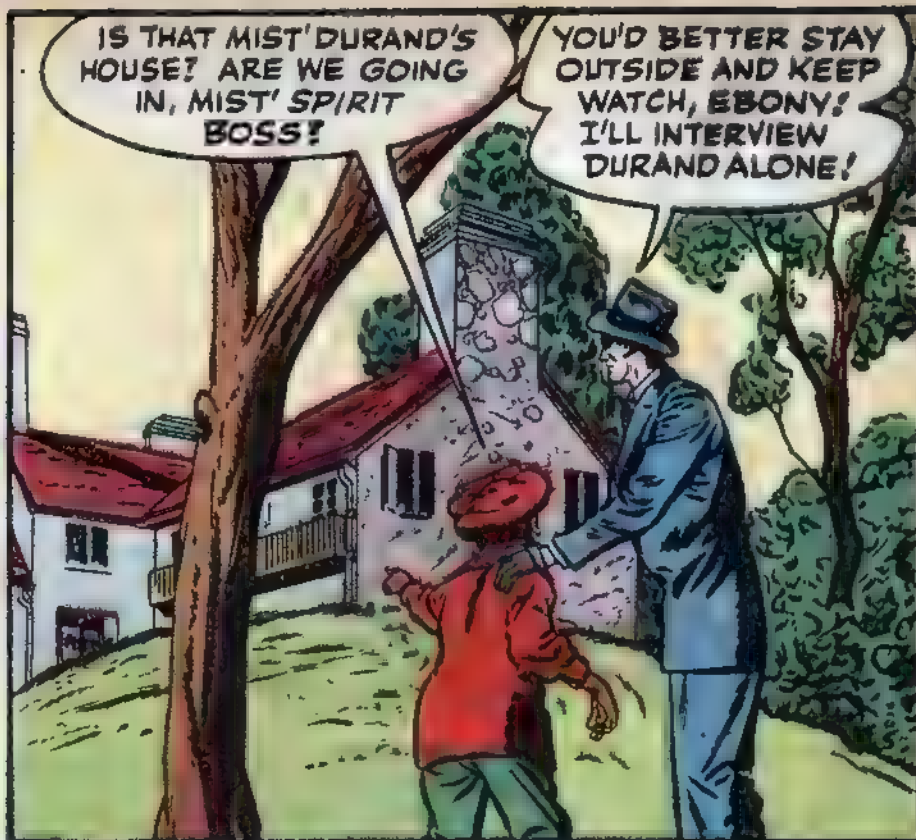
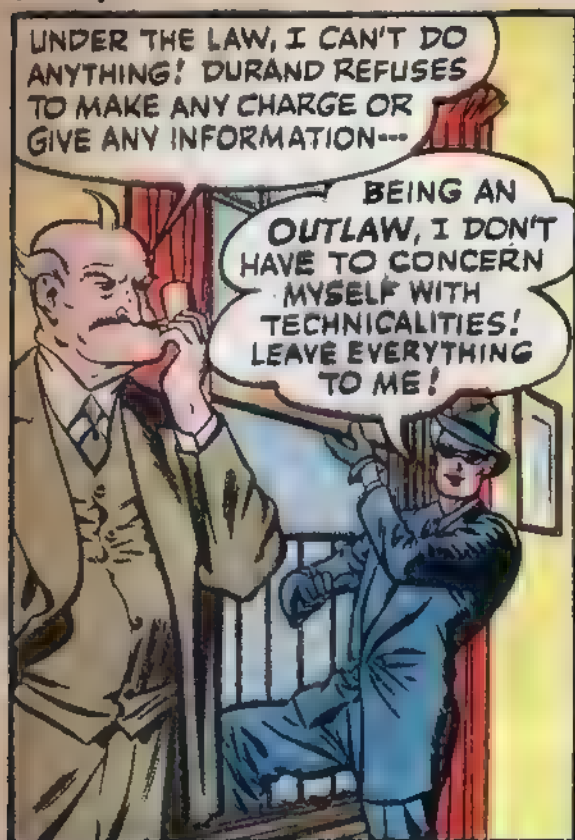
IF I TALK, THEY'LL KILL HER -- THEY SAID SO! PLEASE DON'T INTERFERE UNTIL I GET HER BACK!

PSSST--  
DOLAN!

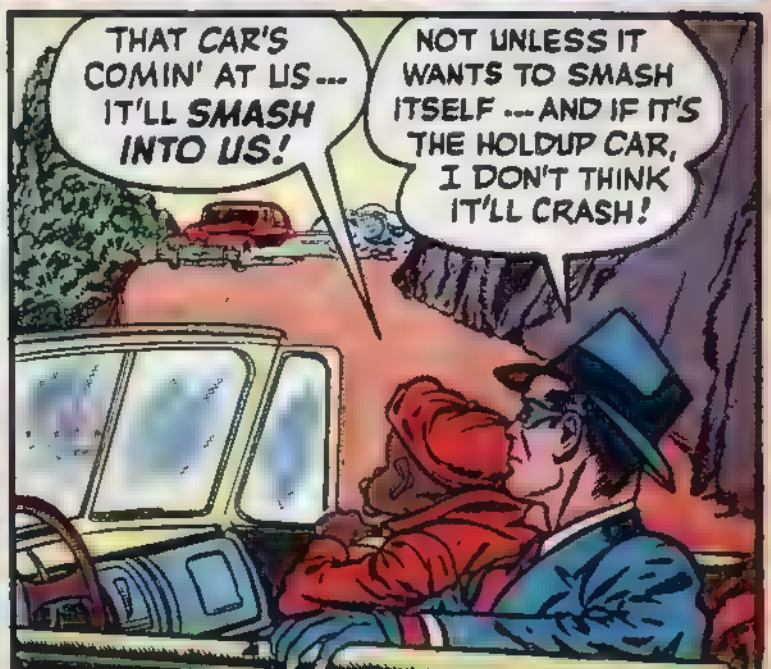
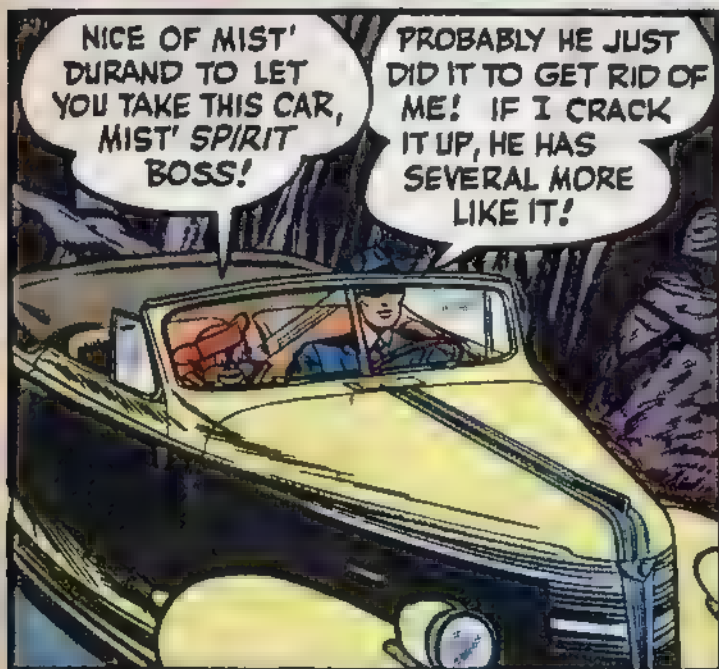
DO YOU ALWAYS EAVESDROP, SPIRIT--EVEN ON MY MOST PRIVATE CONFERENCES?

ALWAYS, DOLAN! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THOSE STICKUP ARTISTS?

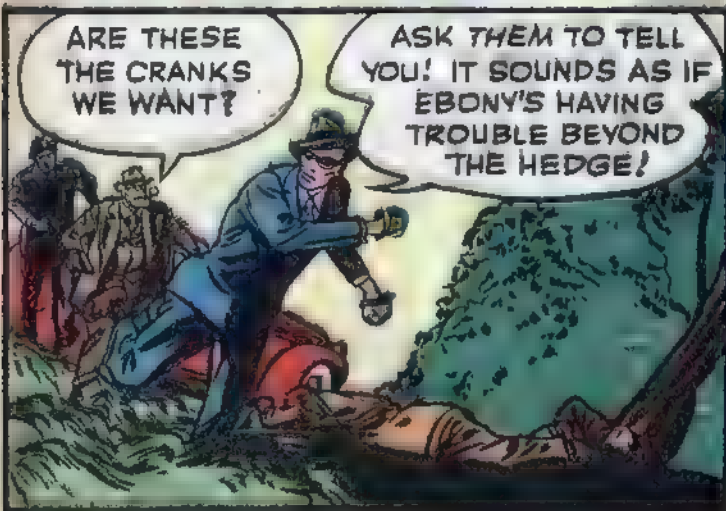
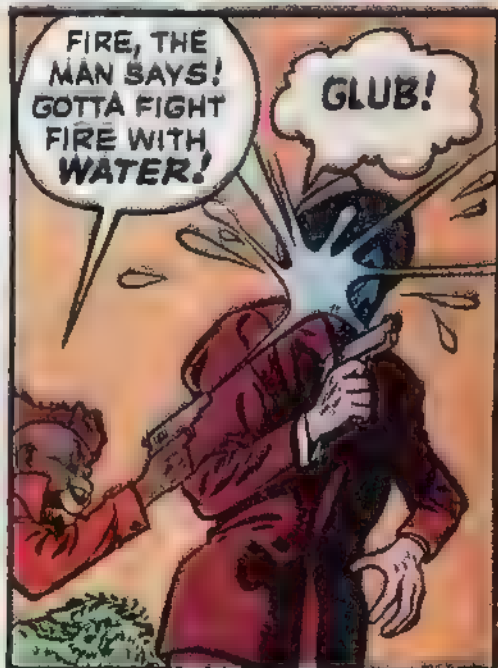
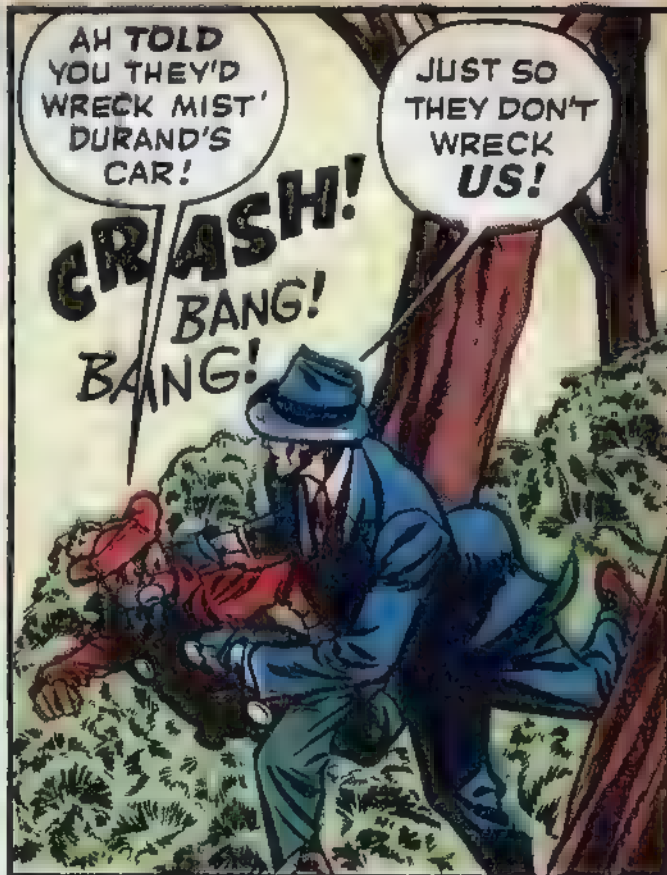
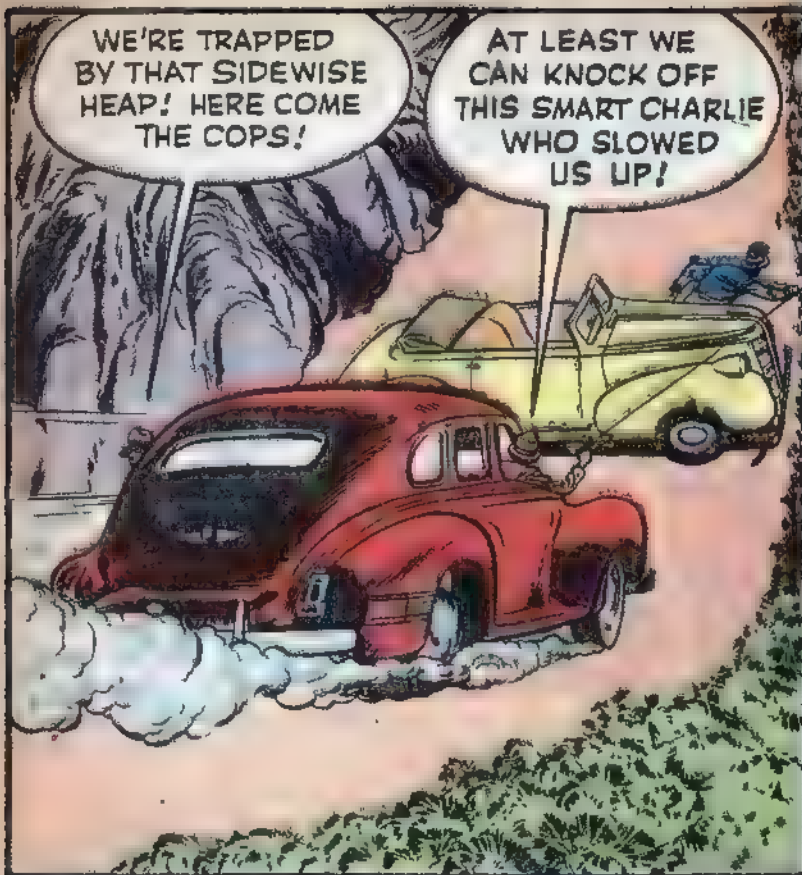














THE JOBS WERE PLANNED BY A DAME! SHE'S PLENTY SMART... SO SMART SHE NEVER EVEN TELLS US WHO SHE IS!

HOW COULD A LADY CRIME BOSS KEEP YOU BOYS IN LINE?



WE LEARNED NOT TO TALK BACK! SHE'S GOT A MUSCLE GUY IN A MASK -- WE OBEY ORDERS OR HE BEATS OUR EARS OFF!

I WONDER WHERE THE SPIRIT'S GONE!



WAIT, YOU!

WAIT FOR NOTHING! TOO MANY COPS RIGHT BEHIND YOU!



YOU WON'T GET ME!...

HE'S DIVING IN!



HE DIDN'T COME UP! SUPPOSE HE DROWNED?

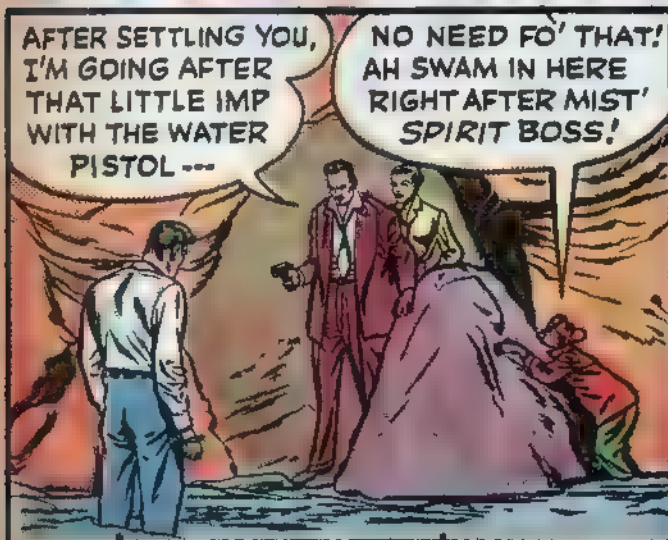
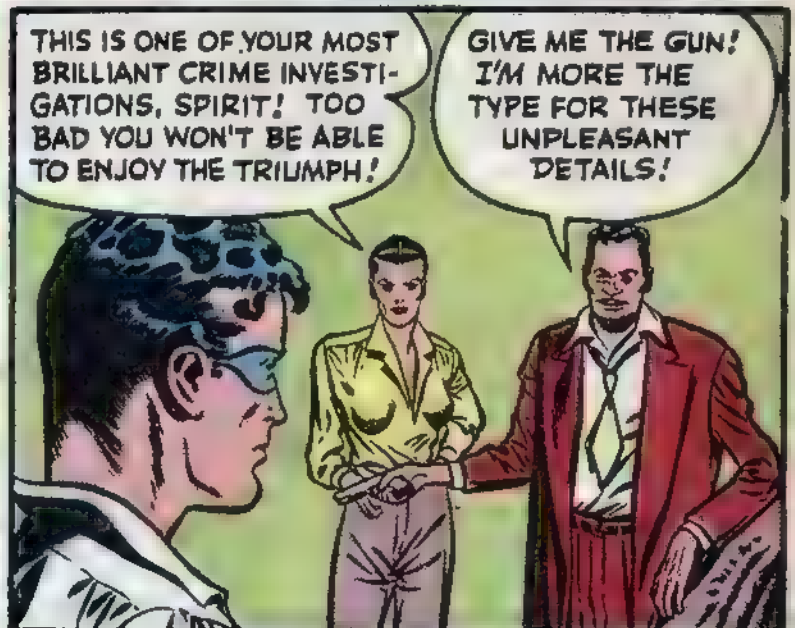
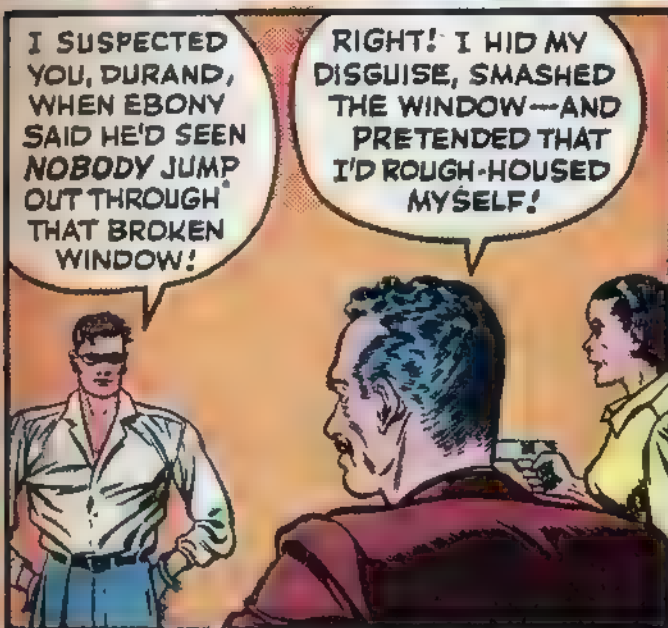
ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT! I'M GOING AFTER HIM!



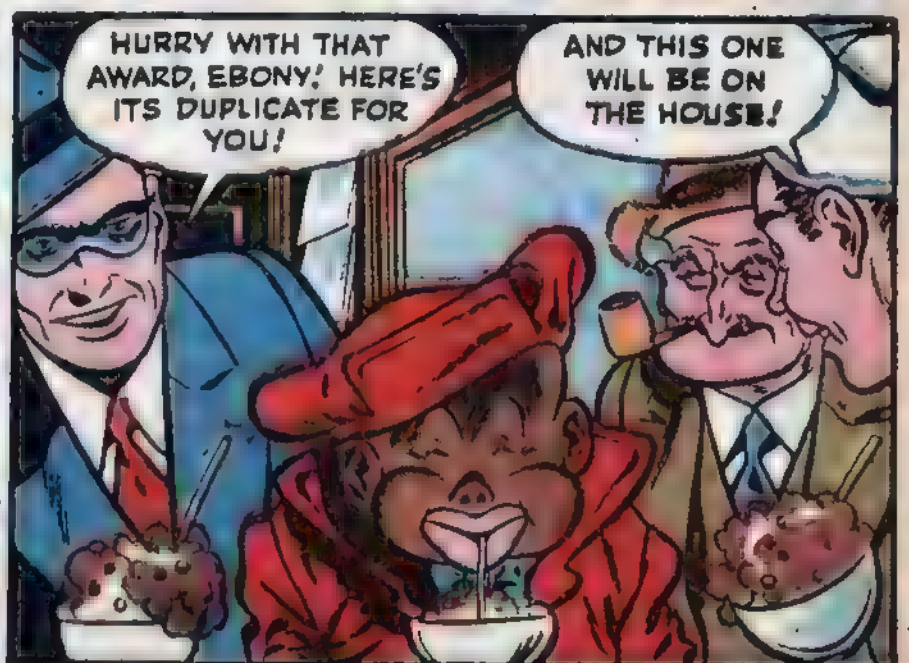
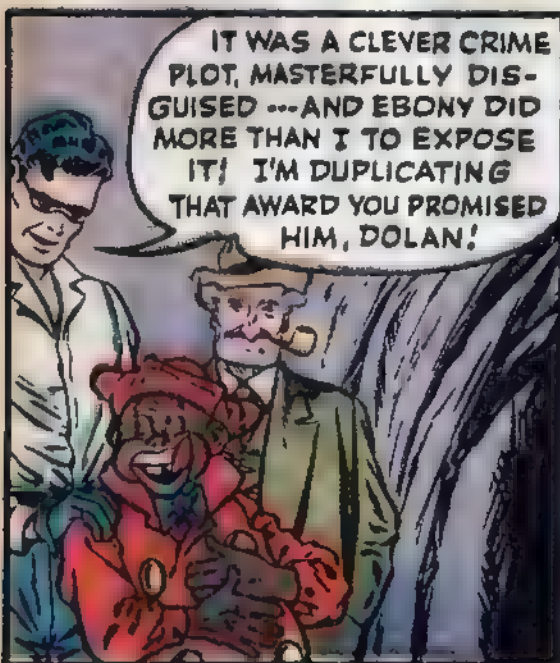
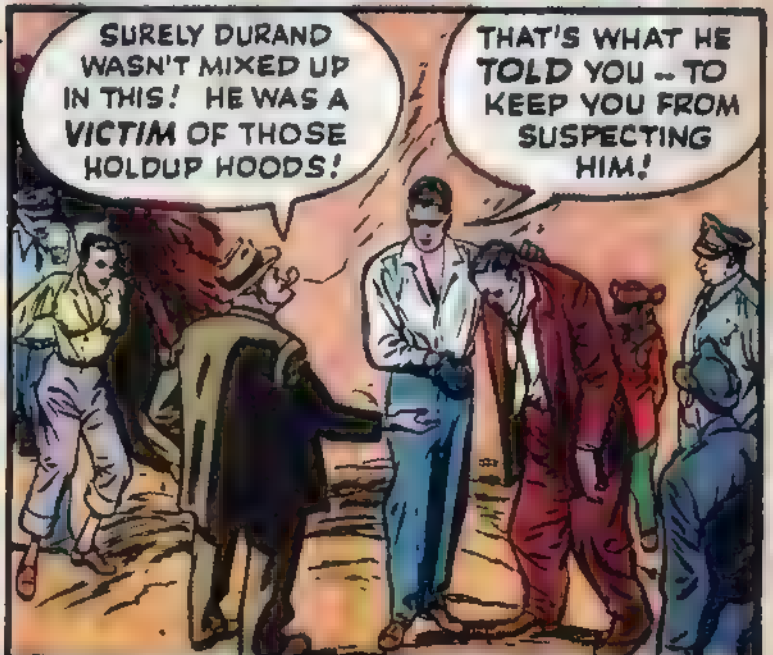
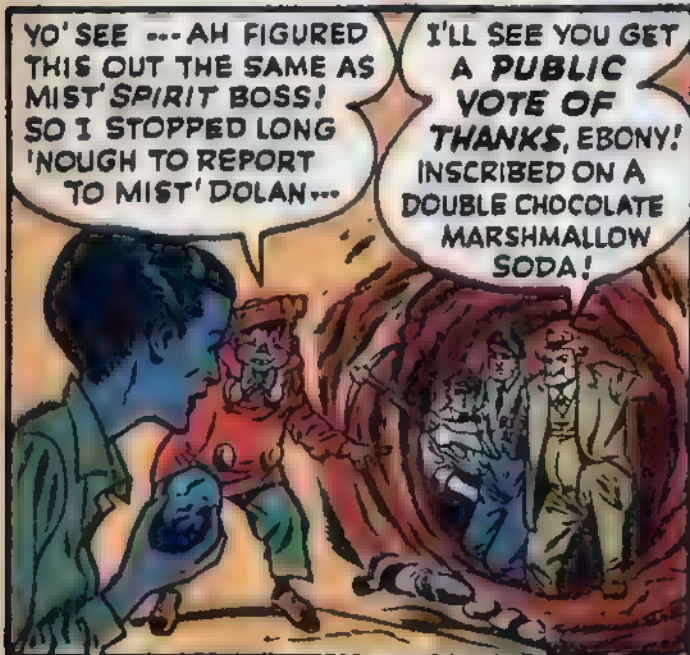
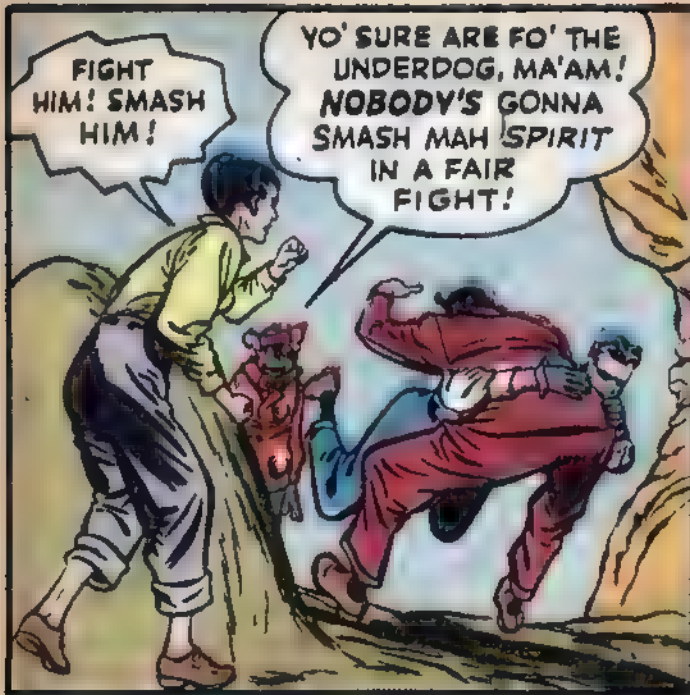
A CAVE --- AND A TUNNEL LEADING UPWARD!



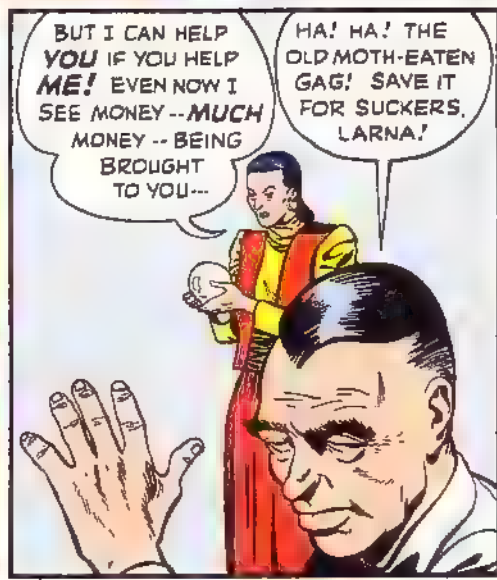
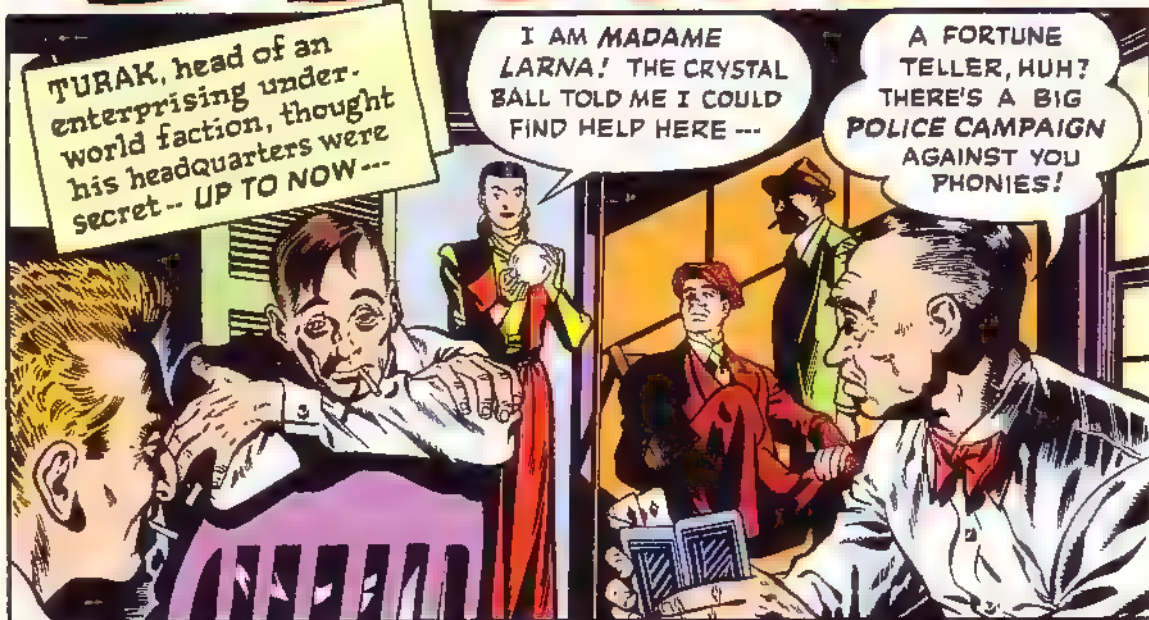








# The SPIRIT





At that moment...

WHERE  
YOU BEEN,  
SPECS?

LOOK, BOSS! WE  
JUST ROBBED THE  
HARPER MILLS  
PAYROLL  
MESSENGER!  
A NICE HUNK  
O' JACK!

YOU SEE, TURAK? THE  
GLOBE TOLD ME! NOW IT  
SAYS THAT DANGER  
FOLLOWS CLOSE---

YOU JUST MADE  
A GOOD GUESS!  
DON'T GIVE ME  
NO FAIRY  
TALES!

HEY, HERE COME  
THE COPS!--- THE  
RIOT SQUAD, WITH  
COMMISSIONER  
DOLAN, HIMSELF!

WHAT'LL WE  
DO? THEY'LL  
SEARCH THE  
WHOLE  
JOINT---

I'LL TAKE CHARGE! HIDE  
IN THE BACK ROOM,  
WHILE I THROW  
THE POLICE OFF  
THE TRAIL!

BUT  
CAN WE  
TRUST  
YOU?

YOU MUST! HIDE, QUICK!  
AND BE CAREFUL OF  
THAT GLOBE--- IT  
WARNS US OF  
GOOD AND BAD!

WE'VE  
GOT TO  
DO AS  
SHE  
SAYS!

BE READY  
FOR TROUBLE!  
BREAK DOWN  
THE DOOR!

THAT ISN'T  
NECESSARY,  
YOUNG MAN!  
IT'S  
UNLOCKED!

BLESS MY SOUL---  
POLICEMEN!  
WHAT NICE  
UNIFORMS!

WE'RE CHASING  
SOME HOLDUP  
MEN, LADY!  
THEY CAME  
HERE!

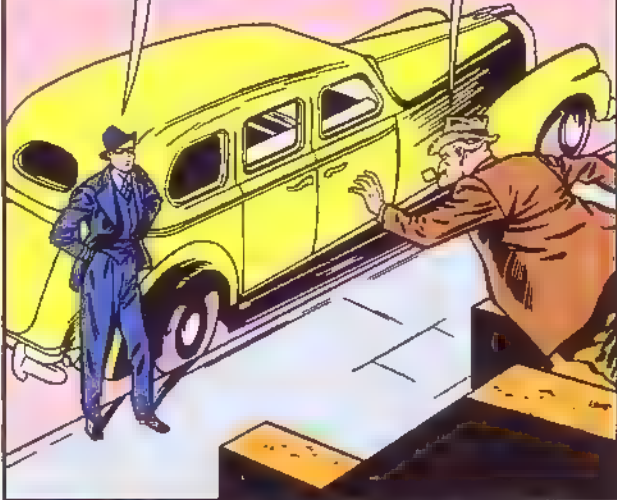
OH, DO YOU MEAN THOSE NICE YOUNG MEN WITH THE CAR AND THE SUITCASE? THEY STOPPED TO ASK THE WAY TO CARNEY WOODS---

CARNEY WOODS -- OF COURSE! A PERFECT HIDEOUT! LET'S GET GOING!

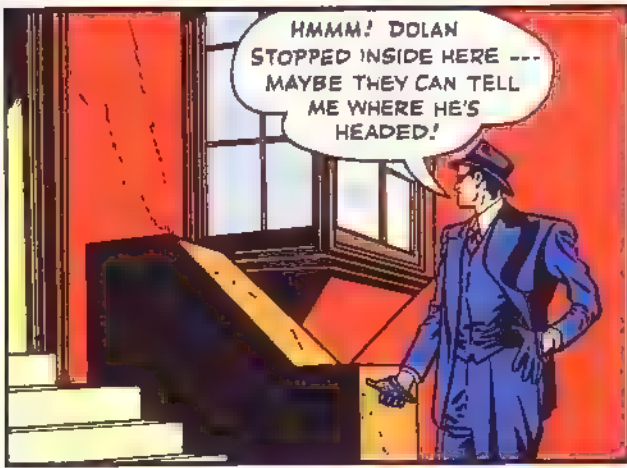


WHERE TO, DOLAN? I HEARD ABOUT THE ROBBERY!

SORRY, SPIRIT! THERE'S NO ROOM FOR YOU IN MY CAR!



HMMM! DOLAN STOPPED INSIDE HERE --- MAYBE THEY CAN TELL ME WHERE HE'S HEADED!



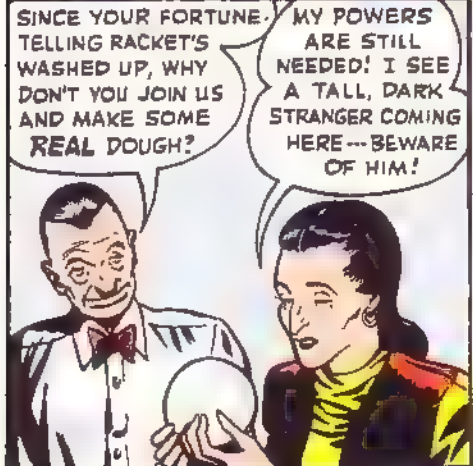
I HEAR THEIR CARS LEAVING! YOU MAY COME OUT!

LARNA, YOU AND THAT CRYSTAL BALL KEPT US OUT OF JAIL!



SINCE YOUR FORTUNE-TELLING RACKET'S WASHED UP, WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US AND MAKE SOME REAL DOUGH?

MY POWERS ARE STILL NEEDED! I SEE A TALL, DARK STRANGER COMING HERE--- BEWARE OF HIM!



PARDON ME, FOLKS! WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME IF ---

THE SPIRIT!





**TURAK! YOU'VE BEEN MUCH SOUGHT AFTER LATELY! COME ALONG---**

**GET HIM OFFA ME!**

**I SEE A GREAT SHOCK COMING TO THIS SPIRIT PERSON---**

**AND HERE IT IS! HOW'S THAT FOR SERVICE?**

**TIE HIM TIGHT! I'LL LOCK THIS DOOR ---**

**AND ISN'T IT TIME THAT I GOT SOME PROFIT OUT OF WHAT I'VE DONE?**

**RIGHT YOU ARE, LARNA! COME INTO THE BACK ROOM AND WE'LL DIVIDE THE HARPER MILLS PAYROLL ---**

**I'LL LOCK THIS DOOR, TOO!**

**When the SPIRIT recovers....**

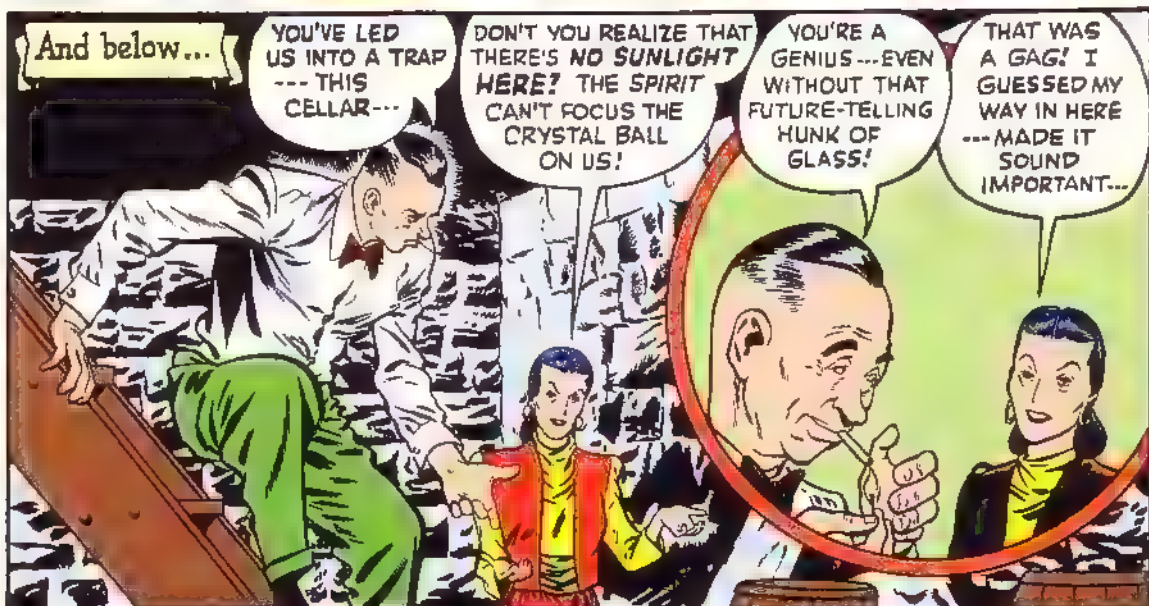
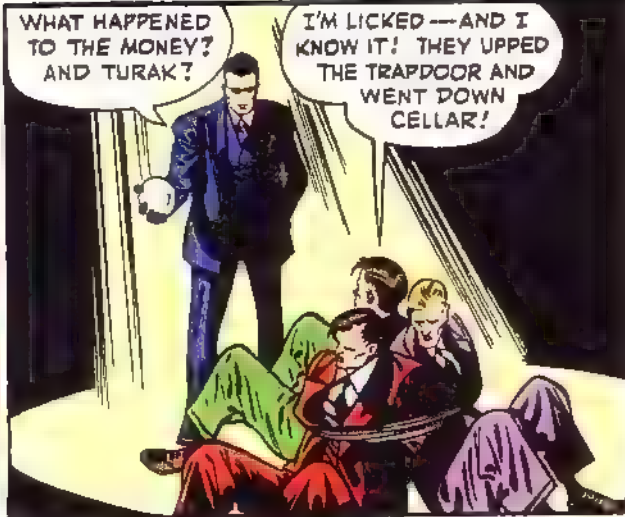
**THAT CRYSTAL BALL --- SUNLIGHT SHINING ON AND THROUGH IT---**

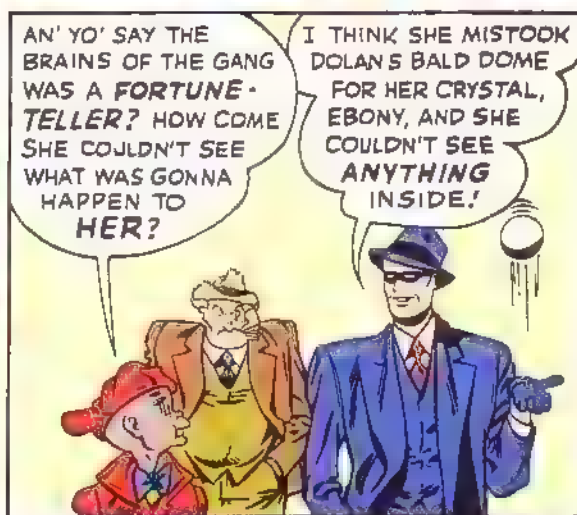
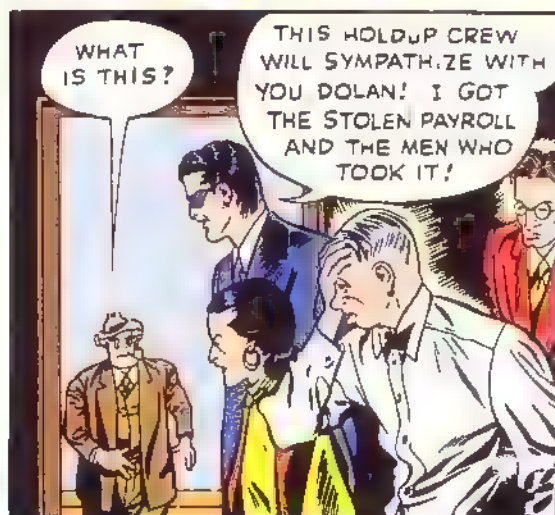
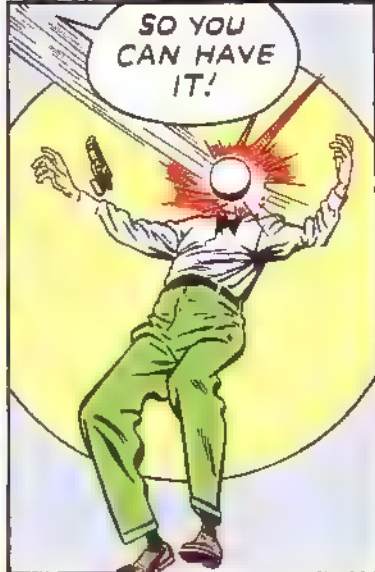
**LIKE A BURNING GLASS! IF I CAN GET AT THE RIGHT PLACE---**

**THIS TAKES ACCURACY... TO BURN THE ROPE WITHOUT BURNING ME!**











COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

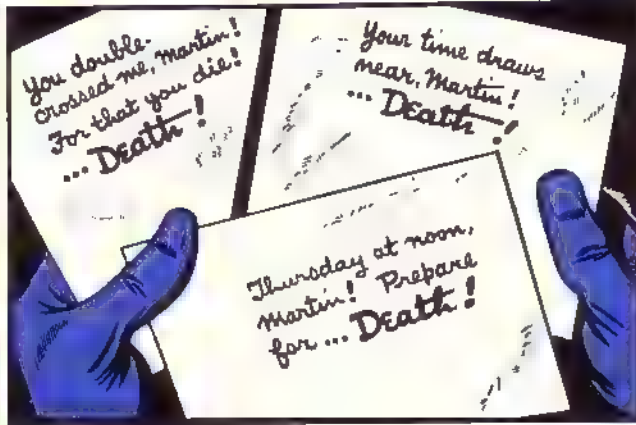
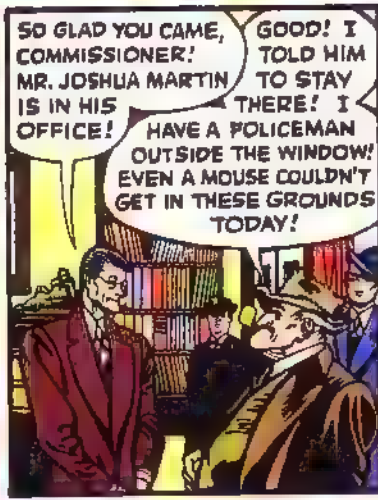
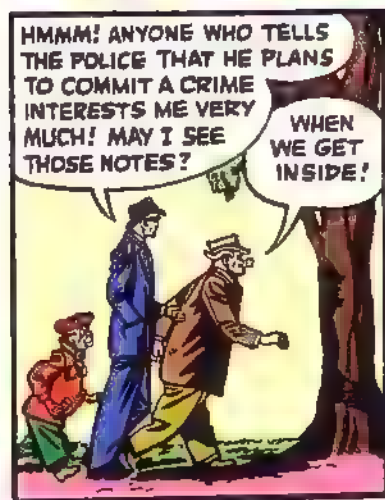
MR. MARTIN'S PISTOLS

September 23, 1945

ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

# THE SPIRIT








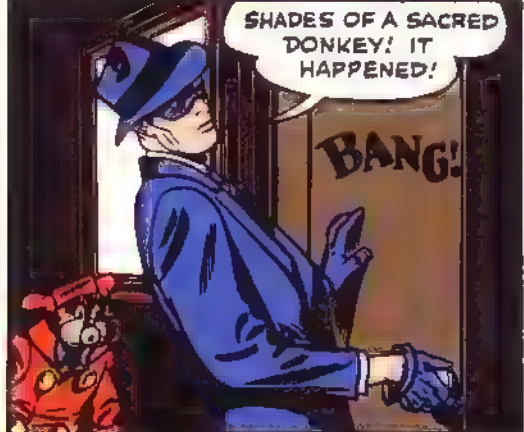
A man in a blue suit and hat is looking at a clock on the wall. A small cartoon character is visible in the bottom left corner.

HMMM! A GRUESOME  
LITTLE PLAYMATE -- AND  
IT IS NOW ONE HALF  
MINUTE TO TWELVE!

A man in a blue suit and hat is talking to a man in a red suit and hat. A bookshelf is visible in the background.


STILL, I DON'T UNDERSTAND  
WHY THESE NOTES WERE SENT  
TO DOLAN! WAIT HERE,  
EBONY, AND WARN ME IF  
ANYONE COMES IN!

YASSUH,  
MIST' SPIRIT  
BOSS!

A man in a blue suit and hat is looking out a window. A small cartoon character is visible in the bottom left corner.

SHADES OF A SACRED  
DONKEY! IT  
HAPPENED!

BANG!

A man in a blue suit and hat is running outside. A small cartoon character is visible in the bottom right corner.


OUTSIDE'S THE PLACE  
FOR US NOW!  
COME ON, EBONY!

AH'S COMIN',  
MIST' SPIRIT  
BOSS!

A man in a blue suit and hat is running towards a man in a purple suit and hat. A small cartoon character is visible in the bottom left corner.

HALT!  
OR I  
FIRE!

HOLD IT, OFFICER!  
I'LL GET HIM!

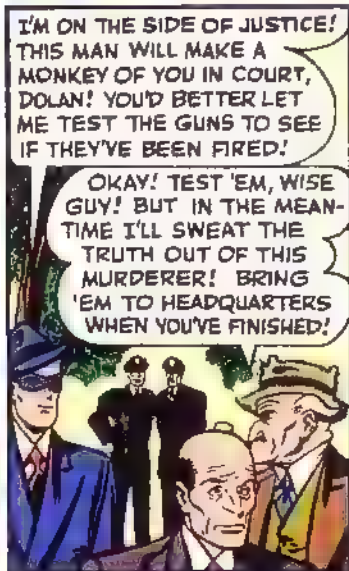
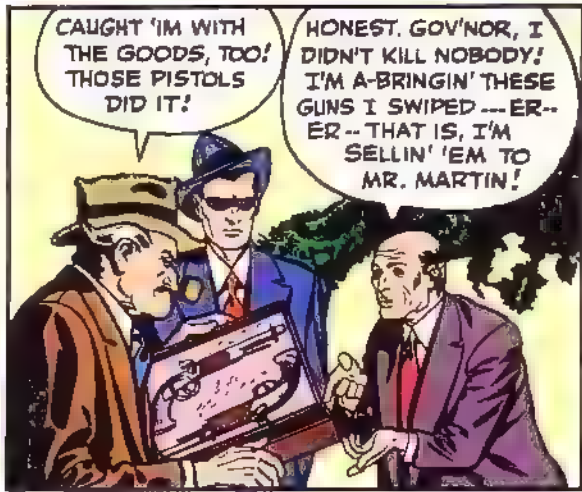
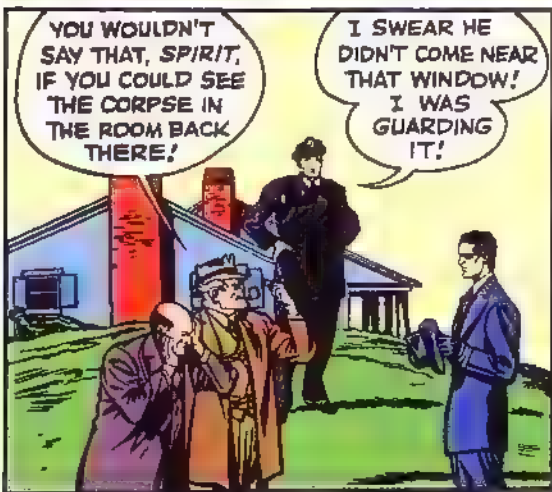
A man in a blue suit and hat is running towards a man in a purple suit and hat. A small cartoon character is visible in the bottom left corner.

WHAT'S YOUR  
HURRY? WE WANT  
A CHAT WITH  
YOU!

A man in a blue suit and hat is running towards a man in a purple suit and hat. A small cartoon character is visible in the bottom left corner.

I AIN'T  
STAYIN',  
SEE!

OH, YOU  
WANT TO  
PLAY  
ROUGH,  
EH?



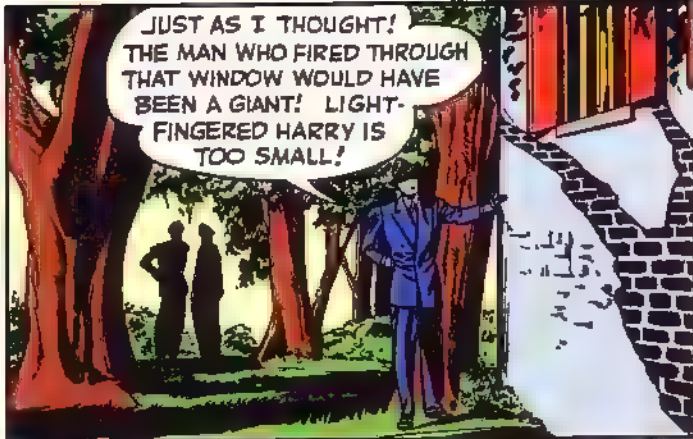


An hour later!

BOTH PISTOL  
BARRELS SHOW  
PLENTY OF RUST!  
HAVEN'T BEEN FIRED  
FOR YEARS! NOW  
I'LL TAKE A LOOK  
OUTSIDE!



JUST AS I THOUGHT!  
THE MAN WHO FIRED THROUGH  
THAT WINDOW WOULD HAVE  
BEEN A GIANT! LIGHT-  
FINGERED HARRY IS  
TOO SMALL!



THIS LOOKS  
INTERESTING!



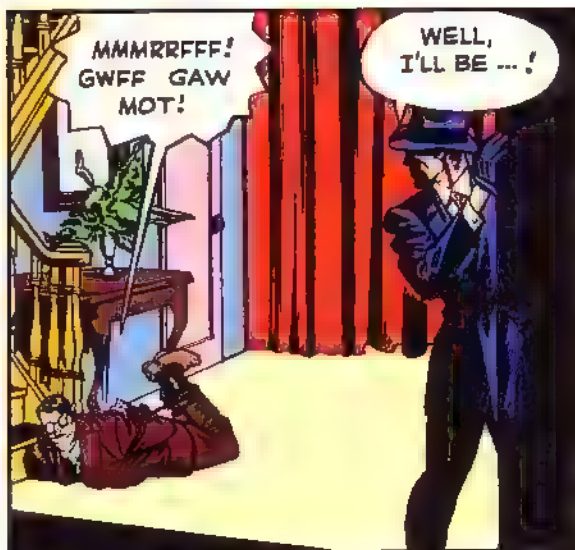
HA! THIS IS MORE  
LIKE IT! ACCORDING  
TO MY IDEA, THERE  
SHOULD BE SOME-  
THING ELSE  
HERE, TOO!



NOW, THIS MAKES  
SENSE! I DON'T NEED  
TO TEST **THIS** GUN!  
IT REEKS OF NEWLY  
FIRED POWDER!



MMMRFFF!  
GWFF GAW  
MOT!

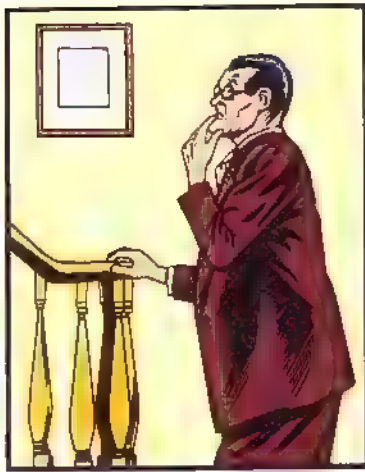


WELL,  
I'LL BE ...!

HE WENT  
UPSTAIRS!  
A BIG MAN  
ABOUT SIX  
FEET TALL!

WE'LL GET THE  
PERSON WHO  
DID THIS!  
DON'T WORRY!









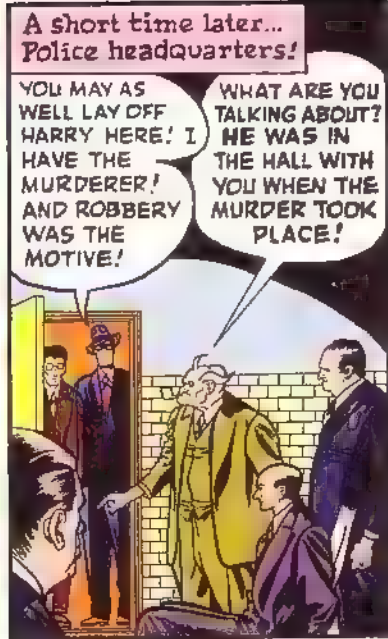
NO, NO! MUSTN'T  
PLAY WITH KNIVES!  
YOU MIGHT CUT  
YOURSELF!

YOU  
%#%!  
COME  
ONE STEP  
CLOSER  
AND I'LL...



OKAY! I'LL  
GIVE UP! I'LL  
TELL ... I MEAN,  
CONFESS!

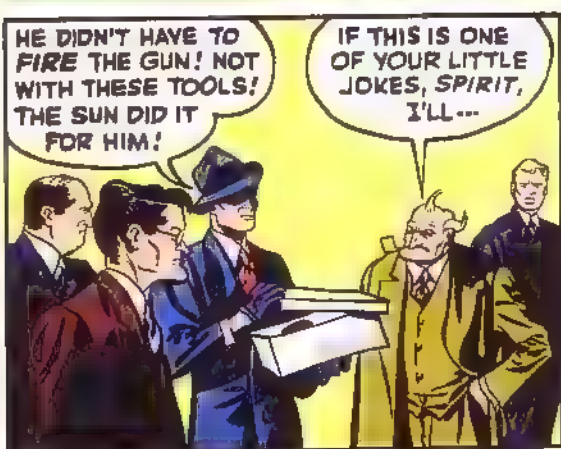
NOW I  
CALL THAT  
BEING  
SENSIBLE!



A short time later...  
Police headquarters!

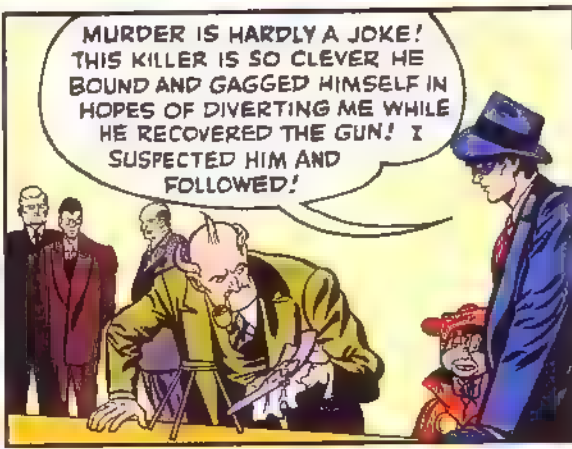
YOU MAY AS  
WELL LAY OFF  
HARRY HERE! I  
HAVE THE  
MURDERER!  
AND ROBBERY  
WAS THE  
MOTIVE!

WHAT ARE YOU  
TALKING ABOUT?  
HE WAS IN  
THE HALL WITH  
YOU WHEN THE  
MURDER TOOK  
PLACE!

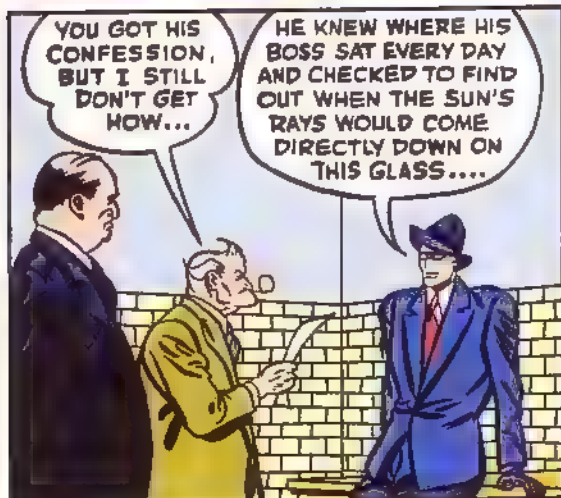


HE DIDN'T HAVE TO  
FIRE THE GUN! NOT  
WITH THESE TOOLS!  
THE SUN DID IT  
FOR HIM!

IF THIS IS ONE  
OF YOUR LITTLE  
JOKES, SPIRIT,  
I'LL...

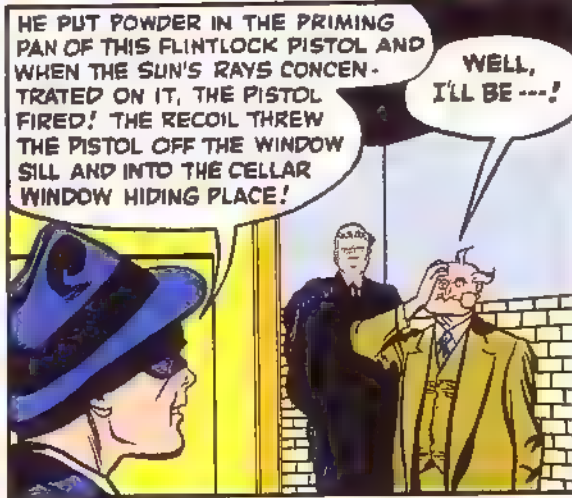


MURDER IS HARDLY A JOKE!  
THIS KILLER IS SO CLEVER!  
HE BOUND AND GAGGED HIMSELF IN  
HOPES OF DIVERTING ME WHILE  
HE RECOVERED THE GUN! I  
SUSPECTED HIM AND  
FOLLOWED!



YOU GOT HIS  
CONFESSION,  
BUT I STILL  
DON'T GET  
HOW...

HE KNEW WHERE HIS  
BOSS SAT EVERY DAY  
AND CHECKED TO FIND  
OUT WHEN THE SUN'S  
RAYS WOULD COME  
DIRECTLY DOWN ON  
THIS GLASS....



HE PUT POWDER IN THE PRIMING  
PAN OF THIS FLINTLOCK PISTOL AND  
WHEN THE SUN'S RAYS CONCENTRATED  
ON IT, THE PISTOL  
FIRED! THE RECOIL THREW  
THE PISTOL OFF THE WINDOW  
SILL AND INTO THE CELLAR  
WINDOW HIDING PLACE!

WELL,  
I'LL BE ---!

# THE SPIRIT

Police Commissioner Dolan has made  
a **SENSATIONAL DEDUCTION**....

YES, ELLEN, I REALIZE  
NOW WHY THE *SPIRIT* SO  
OFTEN CATCHES ME FLAT.  
FOOTED AND SOLVES  
A CASE FIRST!

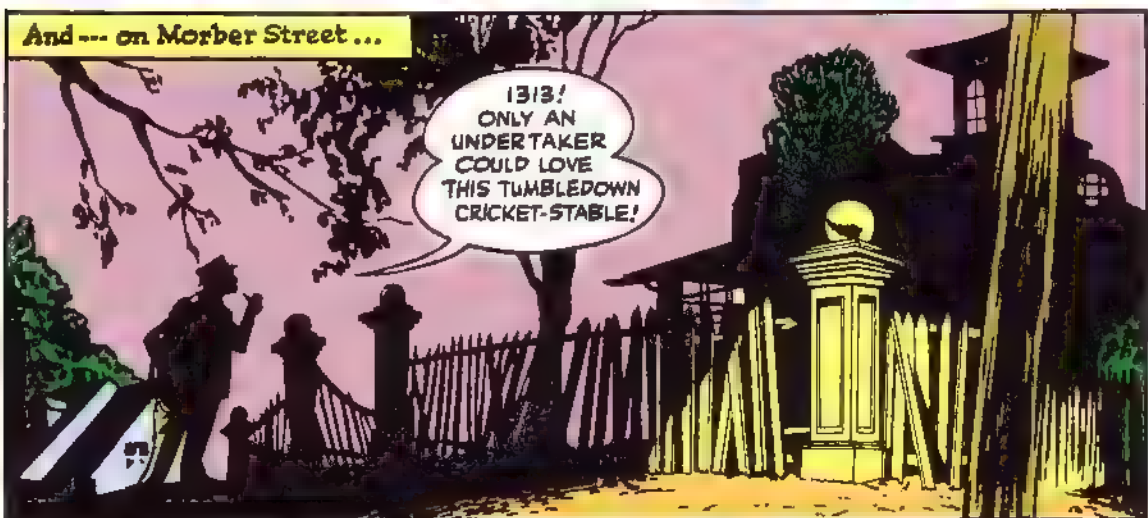
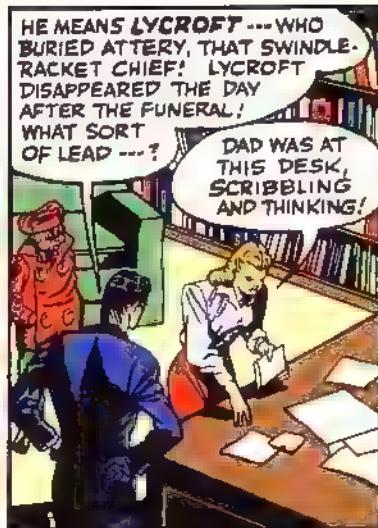
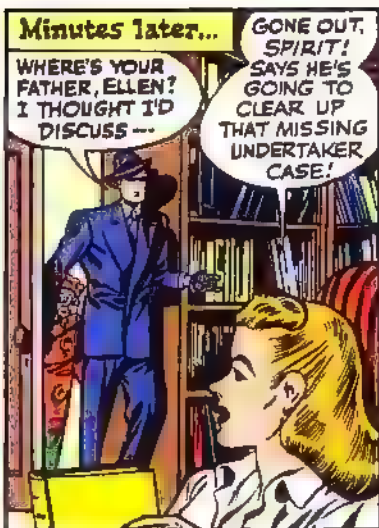
REALLY,  
FATHER?

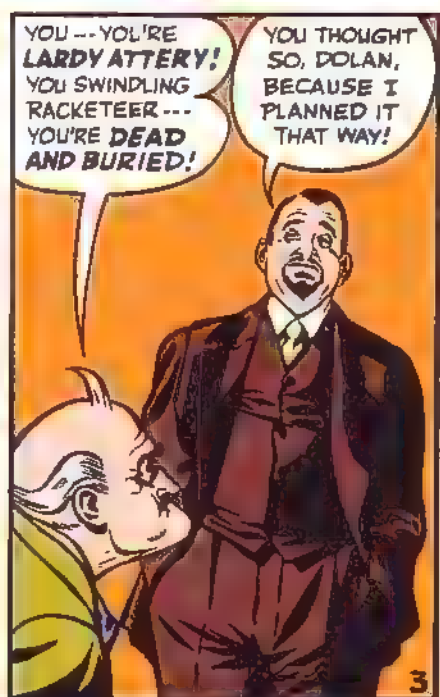
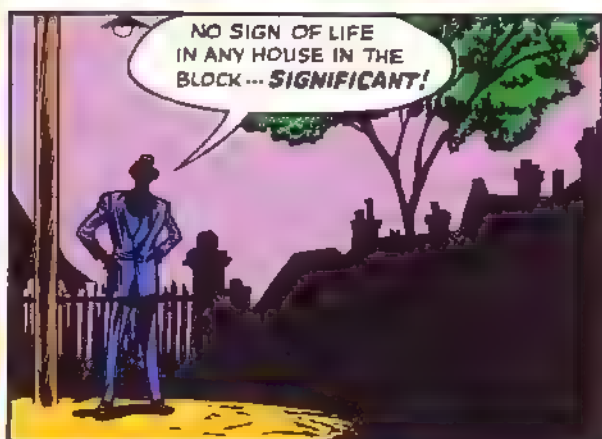
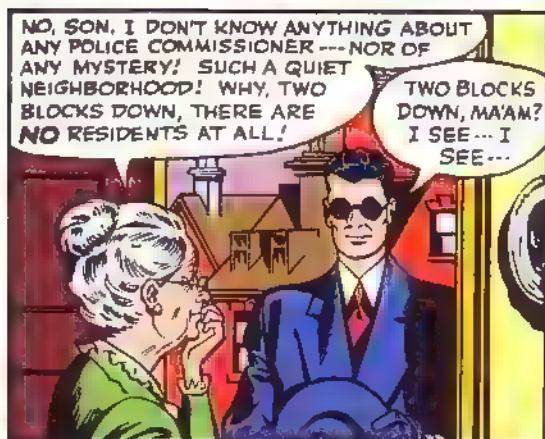
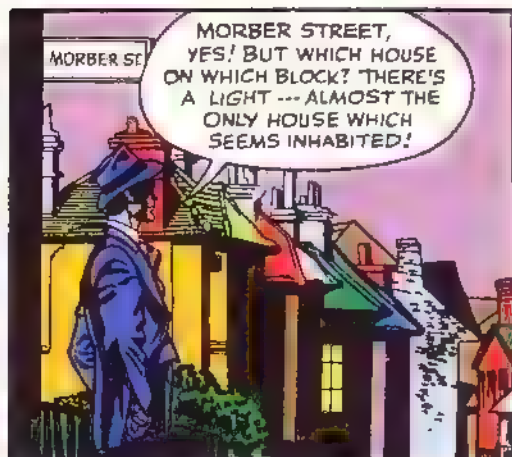
HE'S A FREE INVESTIGATOR...  
I'M HAMPERED BY A **TOP-  
HEAVY, CUMBERSOME**  
POLICE DEPARTMENT THAT  
MUST BE SUPERVISED!  
WELL, TONIGHT I'VE  
PUT MY FIRST  
ASSISTANT  
ON DUTY...

AND WHAT  
ARE YOU  
GOING TO  
DO?

I'M GOING OUT  
LONE-HANDED... LIKE  
THE *SPIRIT*... TO CLEAR  
UP THE CASE OF THAT  
MISSING **UNDER-  
TAKER!**









YOU WERE GETTING CLOSE TO ME, DOLAN! ... TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT! SO I TOOK A DRUG THAT MADE ME **SEEM DEAD!** YOUR OWN POLICE DOCTOR CERTIFIED MY DEATH!

AND LYCROFT BURIED YOU!

LYCROFT TOOK A BIG BRIBE TO BURY AN **EMPTY COFFIN!** THEN HE TRIED TO BLACKMAIL ME, SO... **LOOK!**

HIYA, DOLAN? IT WAS ME THAT PHONED AND TIPPED YOU OFF TO FIND US! BECAUSE...

PLEASE, MOPEY, GIVE ME THE PLEASURE OF EXPLAINING!

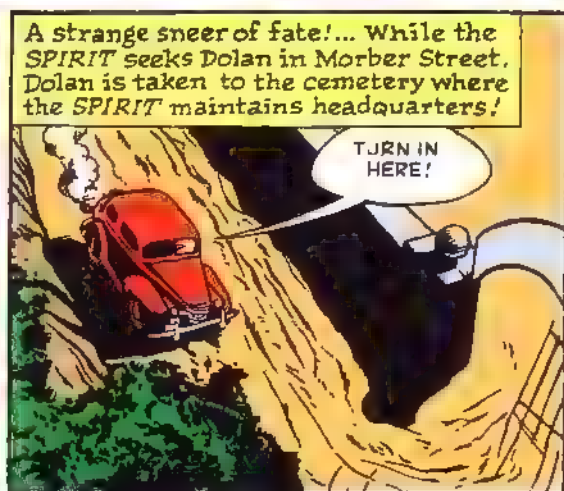
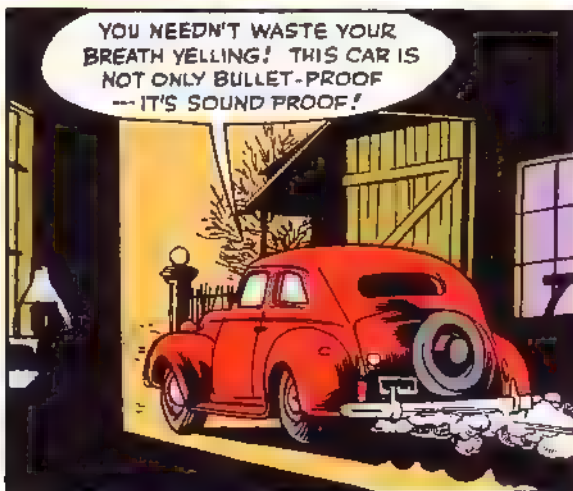
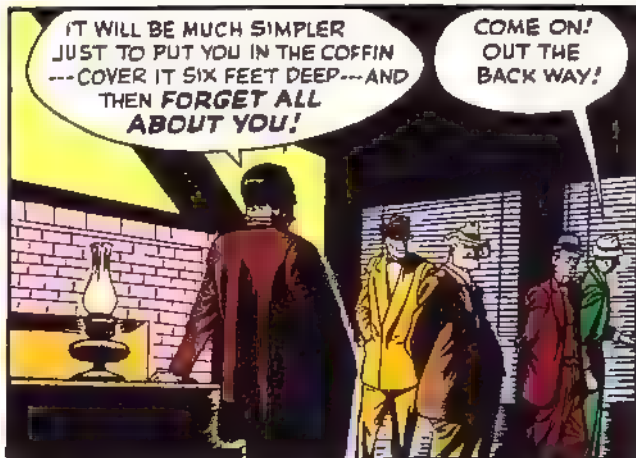
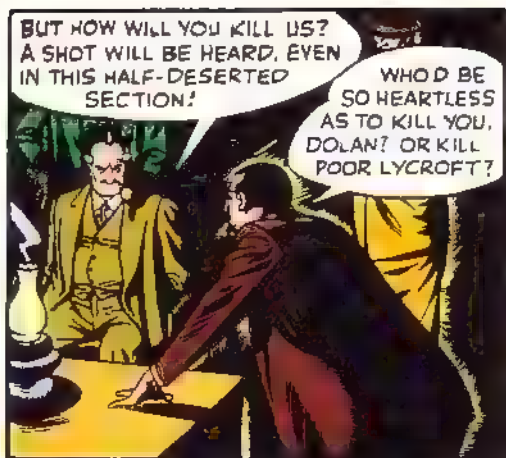
I INTENDED TO LIE LOW AND EAT LIGHT FOR SIX MONTHS ---GET THIN AND **UNRECOGNIZABLE!** THEN START OPERATING AGAIN!

BUT LYCROFT THREATENED TO SQUEAL, SO YOU GRABBED HIM? YOU DON'T **DARE** KILL HIM, THOUGH --- HIS BODY WOULD BE FOUND!

NEVER! WE'LL PUT HIM IN **MY COFFIN!** THE DIRT ON THE GRAVE IS FRESH --- NOBODY WILL KNOW IT WAS DUG UP **TWICE!** AND, SINCE MY COFFIN'S SO **ROOMY**...

WE FIGURED TO LURE YOU INTO IT, TOO! YOU'VE BEEN MY CHIEF SOURCE OF TROUBLE --- HOUNDING ME---

LET ME GO! I'LL SWEAT THIS BIG BLUBBER-SACK DOWN TO A LIVING SKELETON!



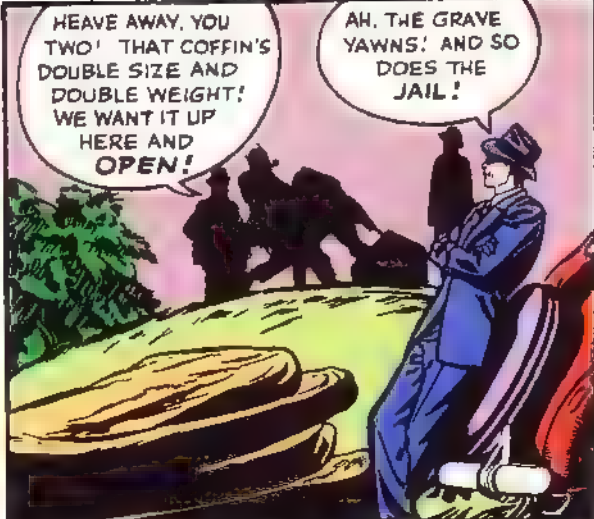


AH, THEY'VE DONE  
NOBLY! DUG DOWN TO  
THE COFFIN! GIVE  
THEM A HAND  
OUT!



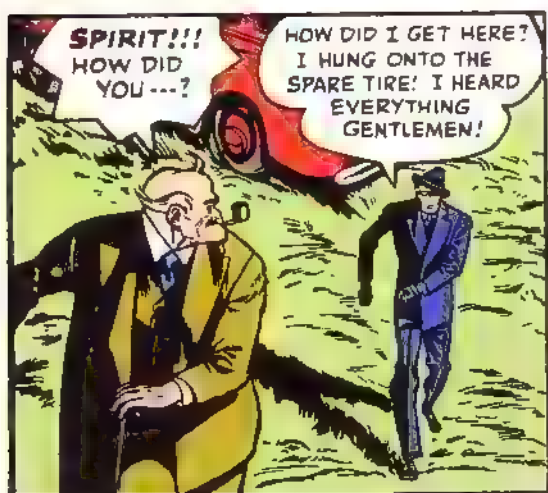
HEAVE AWAY, YOU  
TWO! THAT COFFIN'S  
DOUBLE SIZE AND  
DOUBLE WEIGHT!  
WE WANT IT UP  
HERE AND  
OPEN!

AH, THE GRAVE  
YAWNS! AND SO  
DOES THE  
JAIL!



**SPIRIT!!!**  
HOW DID  
YOU...?

HOW DID I GET HERE?  
I HUNG ONTO THE  
SPARE TIRE! I HEARD  
EVERYTHING  
GENTLEMEN!



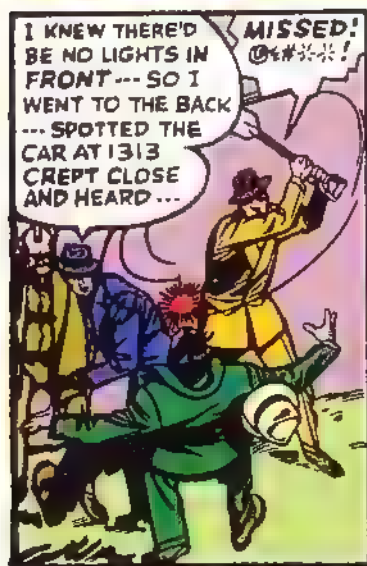
ALL I KNEW WAS THAT YOU  
WERE ON MORBER STREET!  
THE **BEST SPOT FOR A  
HIDEAWAY** WAS THE 1300  
BLOCK, WITH NO  
**REPORTED**  
RESIDENTS!

SLUG HIM! WE  
CAN SQUEEZE  
**THREE**  
INTO THIS  
COFFIN!



I KNEW THERE'D  
BE NO LIGHTS IN  
FRONT --- SO I  
WENT TO THE BACK  
--- SPOTTED THE  
CAR AT 1313  
CREPT CLOSE  
AND HEARD ---

**MISSED!**  
@#\*%\*!



NOW THAT I'VE  
EXPLAINED,  
LET'S GET  
DOWN TO  
BUSINESS!

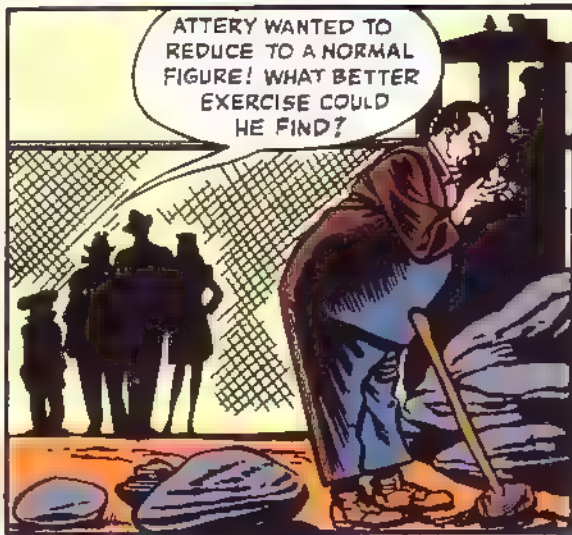
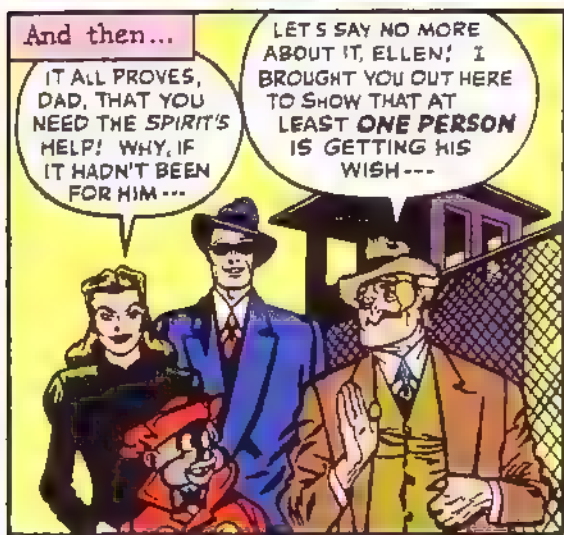
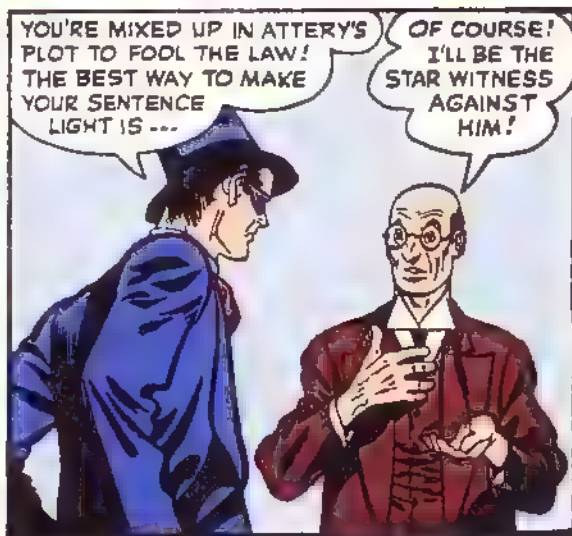
YOU FORCE  
ME TO A VERY  
NOISY AND  
DECISIVE  
NECESSITY,  
**SPIRIT!**



I'LL HANDLE  
HIM, **SPIRIT!**  
TACKLE THE  
OTHER!

THIS TIME I  
DON'T MISS!  
YOU CAN'T GET  
TOO FAR AWAY  
TO HIT---



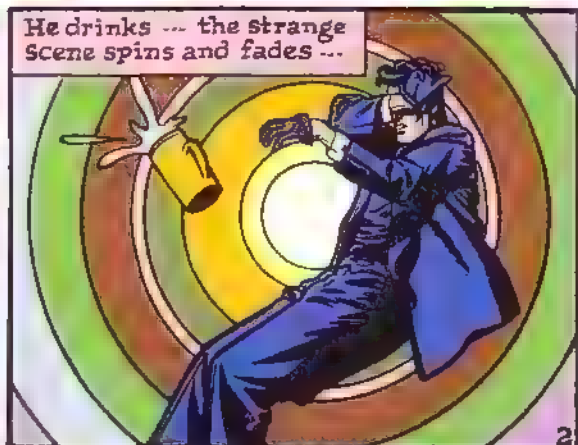
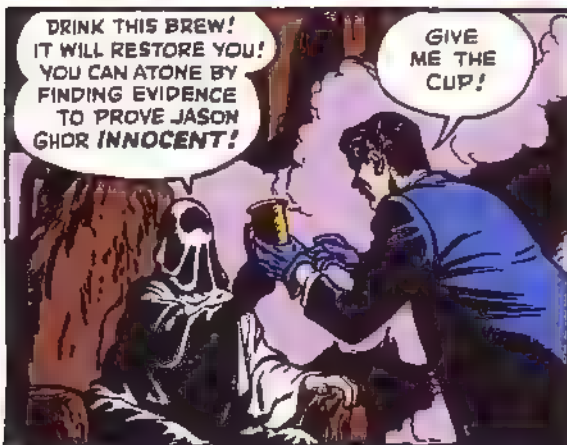
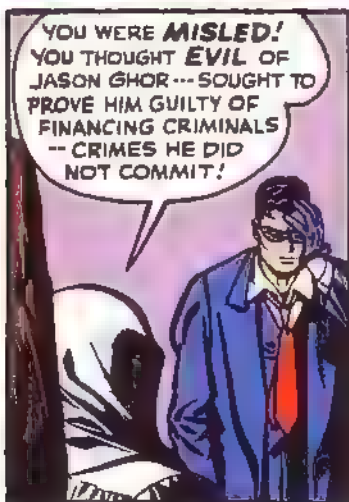
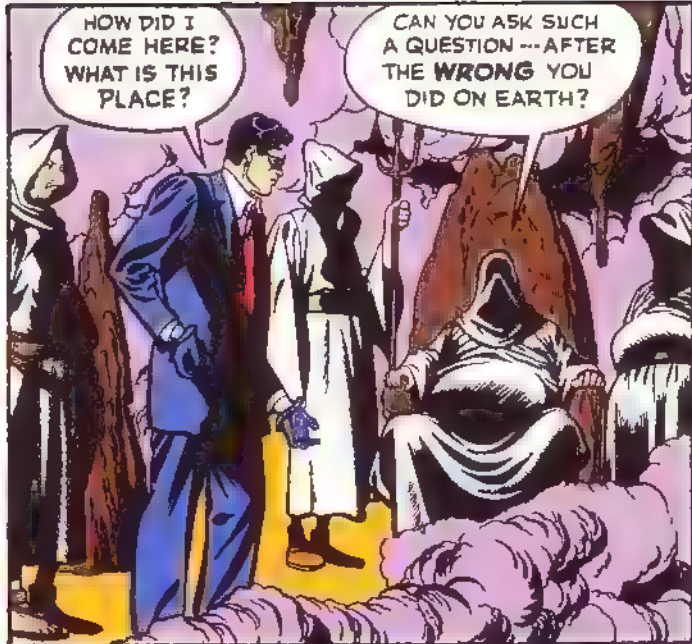




October 7 1945

# *The* **SPRIT**



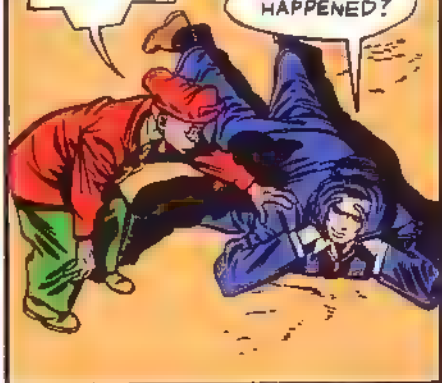




Then blackness, and at last ...

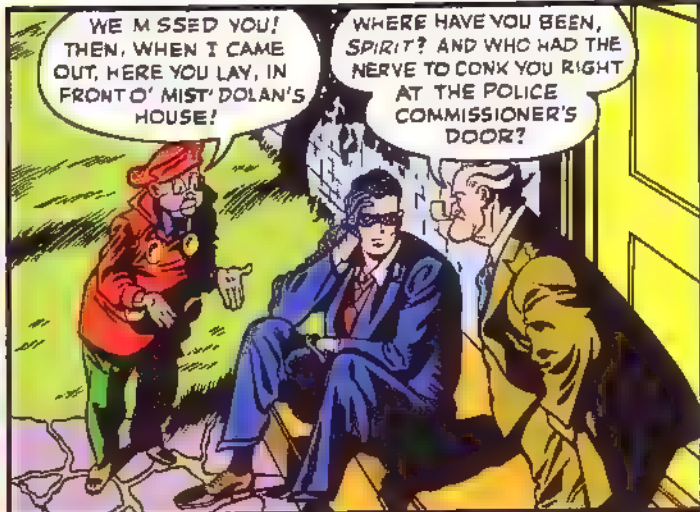
MIST' SPIRIT  
BOSS! WAKE  
UP!

EBONY! ARE  
YOU THERE?  
WHAT  
HAPPENED?



WE MISSED YOU!  
THEN, WHEN I CAME  
OUT, HERE YOU LAY, IN  
FRONT O' MIST' DOLAN'S  
HOUSE!

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN,  
SPIRIT? AND WHO HAD THE  
NERVE TO CONK YOU RIGHT  
AT THE POLICE  
COMMISSIONER'S  
DOOR?



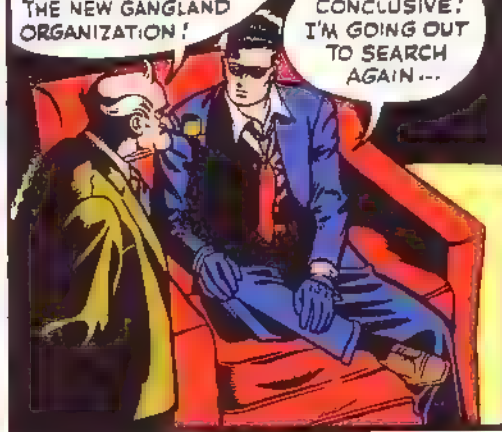
EVERYTH'ING'S  
RATHER HAZY ---  
FANTASTIC IN MY  
MIND!

REMEMBER, MAN! TRY TO  
REMEMBER! YOU WERE HELPING  
ME HUNT FOR EVIDENCE  
AGAINST JASON GHOR!



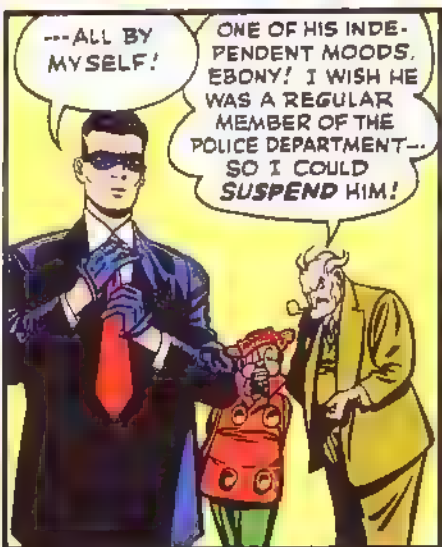
YOU AND I BOTH THINK  
THAT HIS MONEY AND  
BRAINS ARE BACK OF  
THE NEW GANGLAND  
ORGANIZATION!

YES--YES--BUT  
I'VE FOUND  
NOTHING  
CONCLUSIVE!  
I'M GOING OUT  
TO SEARCH  
AGAIN---

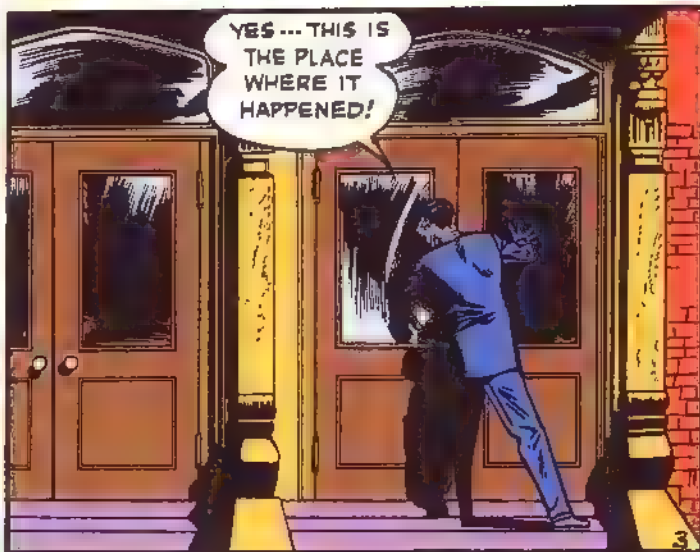


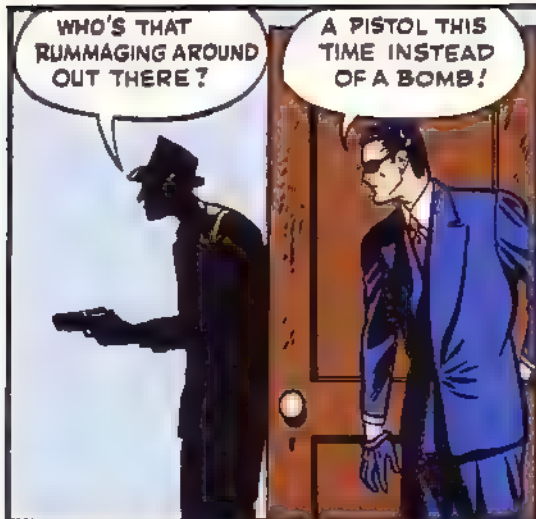
---ALL BY  
MYSELF!

ONE OF HIS INDE-  
PENDENT MOODS.  
EBONY! I WISH HE  
WAS A REGULAR  
MEMBER OF THE  
POLICE DEPARTMENT--  
SO I COULD  
SUSPEND HIM!



YES---THIS IS  
THE PLACE  
WHERE IT  
HAPPENED!





WHO'S THAT  
RUMMAGING AROUND  
OUT THERE?

A PISTOL THIS  
TIME INSTEAD  
OF A BOMB!

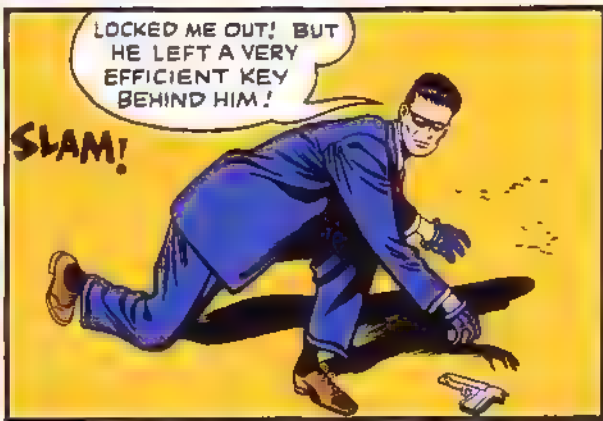


DROP THAT  
ROSCOE AND  
LET'S DEBATE  
FAIR AND  
SQUARE!

THE SPIRIT...  
NO!! IT  
CAN'T  
BE!



I THREW THE BOMB  
MYSELF! SAW YOU  
BLASTED INTO SHREDS!  
YOU -- YOU'RE A  
GHOST!



LOCKED ME OUT! BUT  
HE LEFT A VERY  
EFFICIENT KEY  
BEHIND HIM!

SLAM!



BULLETS  
LAUGH AT  
LOCKSMITHS!



HE EVEN OPENS  
LOCKED DOORS! HE'S  
A SPOOK, I  
TELL YOU!



But the SPIRIT does not  
pursue at once.... He  
pauses in the entry,  
making tests with a  
bottle of chemical!

STRANGE! ... BUT  
NOT SO STRANGE AS  
I THOUGHT AT  
FIRST!



NOW I KNOW  
JUST ABOUT  
WHAT TO  
EXPECT---

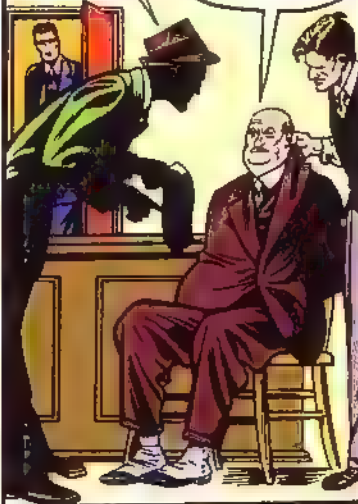
**NO SHADOW-  
BOXING, GHOR!**  
**THE COPS**  
**ALREADY**  
**SUSPECT YOU!**  
**YOU'D BETTER**  
**THROW IN**  
**WITH US--**  
**BUT QUICK!**



Creeping warily,  
the *SPIRIT* sees...

YOU HEARD US!  
SIGN THAT  
STATEMENT  
SAYING YOU'LL  
BACK UP OUR  
RACKETS!

I'VE TOLD  
YOU AND TOLD  
YOU-- I **REFUSE**  
TO BECOME  
A MURDERING,  
ROBBING  
RACKETEER!



WE'VE **ALREADY** FRAMED  
EVIDENCE TO MAKE THE  
COPS DISTRUST YOU!  
NOW, IF YOU WON'T  
BE REASONABLE---

LOOK!  
LOOK!



YOU ACTUALLY SEEM  
**SURPRISED**  
TO SEE ME!

HE'S DEAD---  
I WON'T STAY  
WITH A DEAD MAN  
IN THE ROOM! LET  
ME GET OUTA  
HERE!



THANK HEAVEN  
YOU CAME IN  
TIME! SET ME  
FREE --- THEY  
THREATENED  
TO TORTURE  
ME IF I  
WOULDN'T---

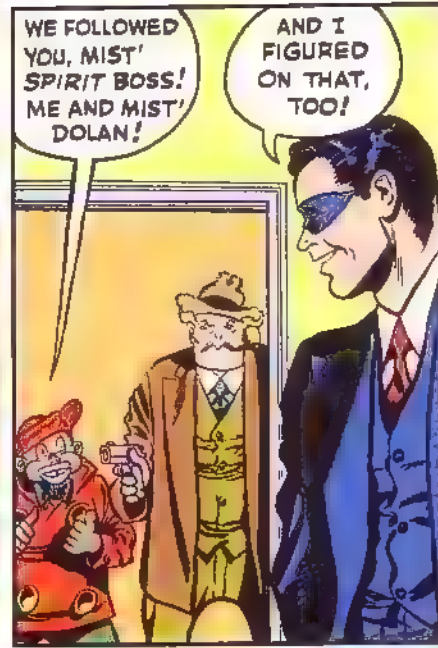
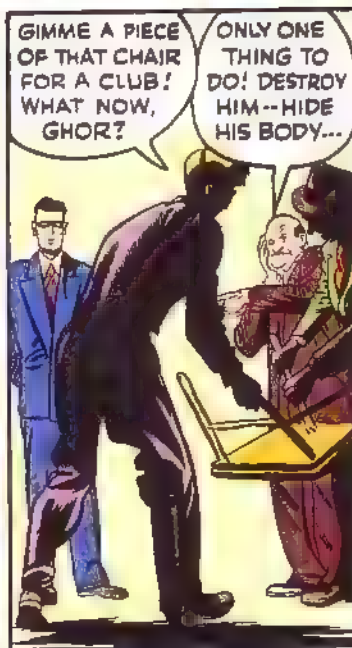
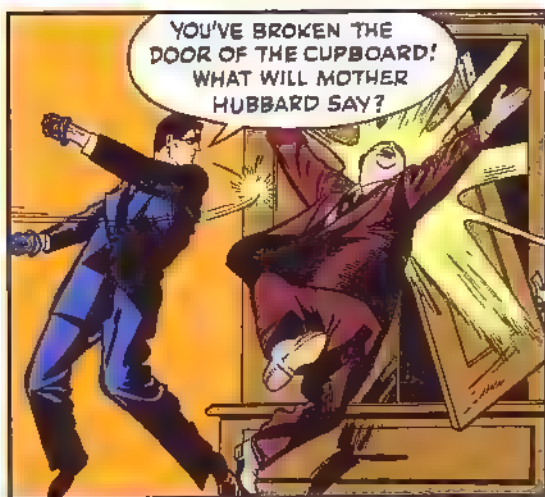
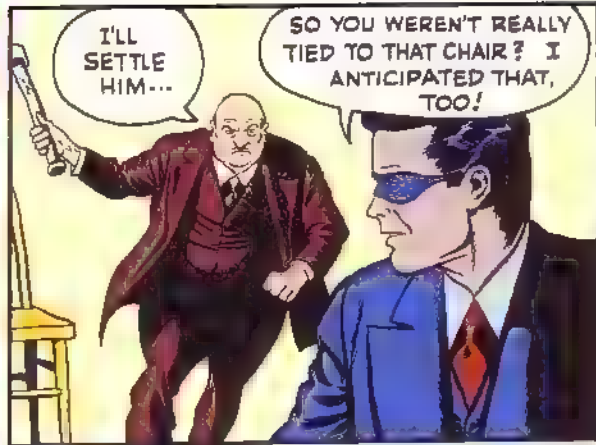
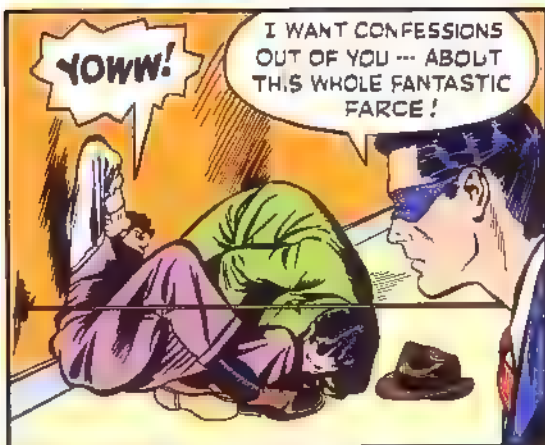
JUST A  
MOMENT,  
MR. GHOR!  
THERE'S  
**ANOTHER**  
SURPRISE OUT  
IN THE  
PASSAGE!



**OOF!**

THE PLOT WAS  
FOR THEM TO  
DASH SAFELY  
AWAY, WASN'T  
IT? BUT I WANT  
THEM TO STICK  
AROUND!









I **KNEW** YOU'D BE MIFFED WHEN I STRUTTED AWAY... AND WOULD TRACK AFTER ME IN TIME FOR THE FINALE!

I'M SICK OF THIS KNOW-IT-ALL! GOODBYE!



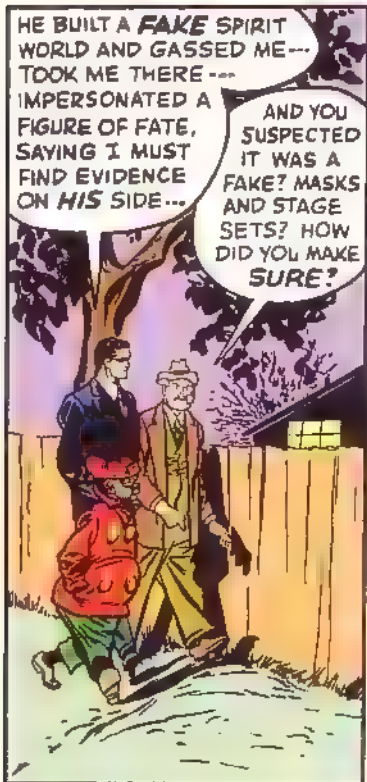
NO, GHOR! YOU STAY! YOUR SMART STAGE EFFECTS REALLY SPEEDED UP THE EVIDENCE AGAINST YOU!

RUN OUTSIDE, EBONY! THE PATROL WAGON OUGHT TO BE HERE BY NOW!



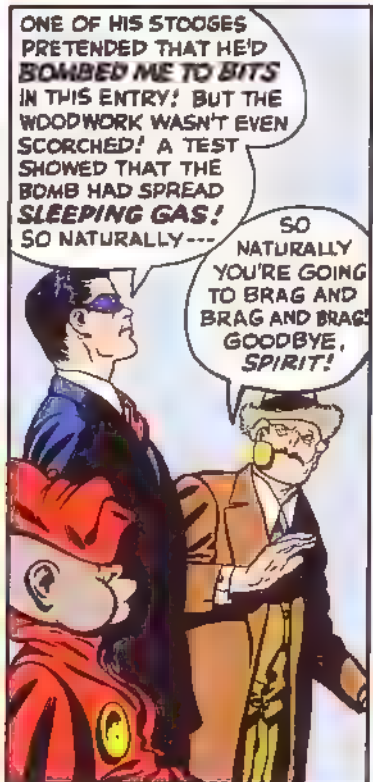
NOW, BEFORE MY BLOOD PRESSURE SETS A NEW HIGH --- WHAT --- **HOW**---

GHOR KNEW WE WERE CLOSE TO EXPOSING HIM! SO HE PLANNED TO USE **ME** TO CLEAR HIM!



HE BUILT A **FAKE** SPIRIT WORLD AND GASSED ME--- TOOK ME THERE --- IMPERSONATED A FIGURE OF FATE, SAYING I MUST FIND EVIDENCE ON **HIS** SIDE---

AND YOU SUSPECTED IT WAS A **FAKE**? MASKS AND STAGE SETS? HOW DID YOU MAKE **SURE**?



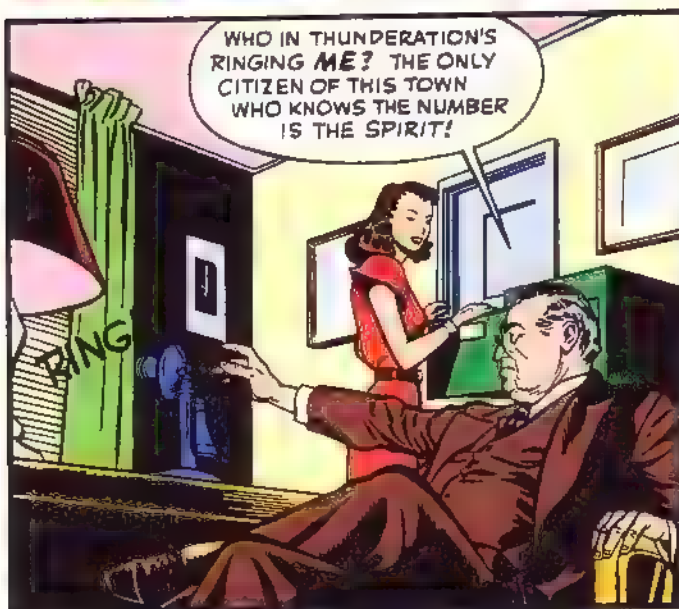
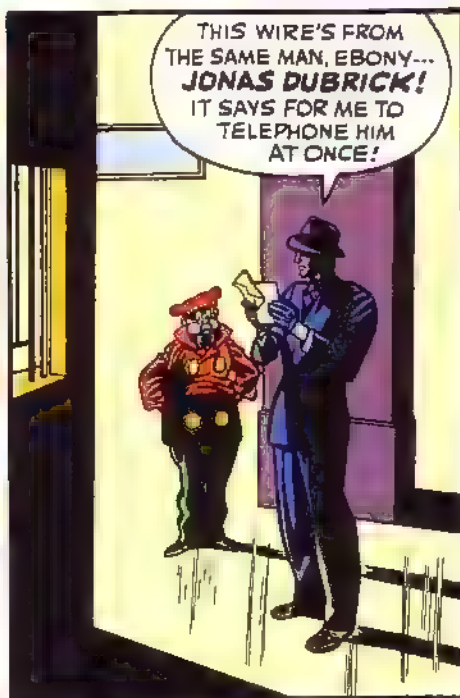
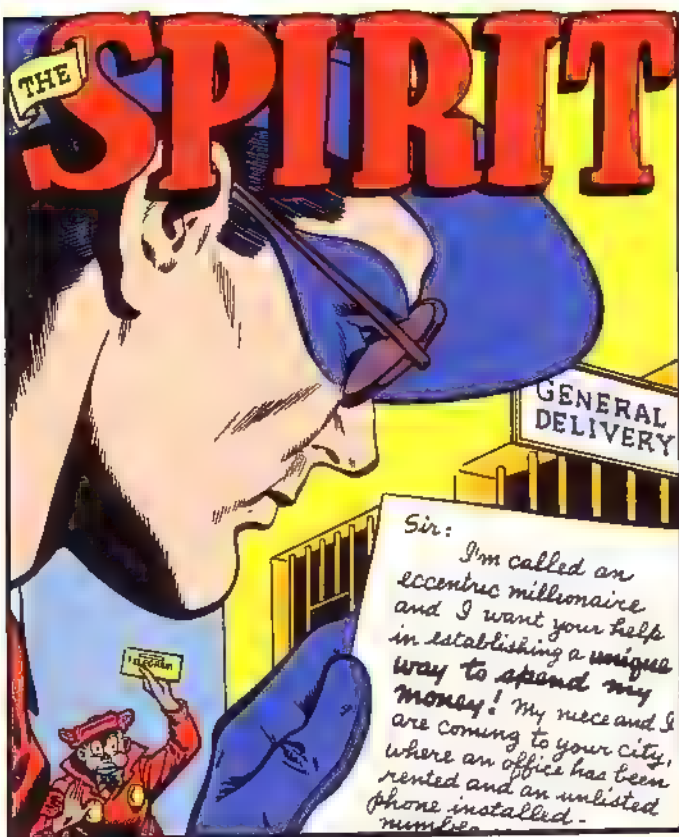
ONE OF HIS STOOGES PRETENDED THAT HE'D **BOMBED ME TO BITS** IN THIS ENTRY! BUT THE WOODWORK WASN'T EVEN SCORCHED! A TEST SHOWED THAT THE BOMB HAD SPREAD **SLEEPING GAS**! SO NATURALLY---

SO NATURALLY YOU'RE GOING TO BRAG AND BRAG AND BRAG! GOODBYE, **SPIRIT**!

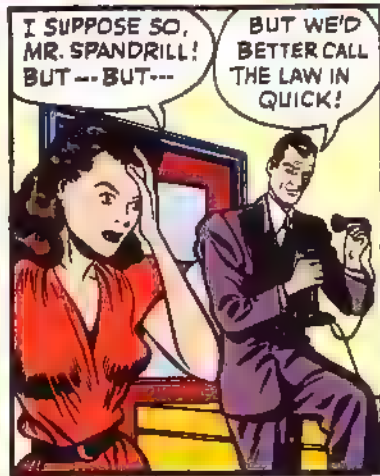
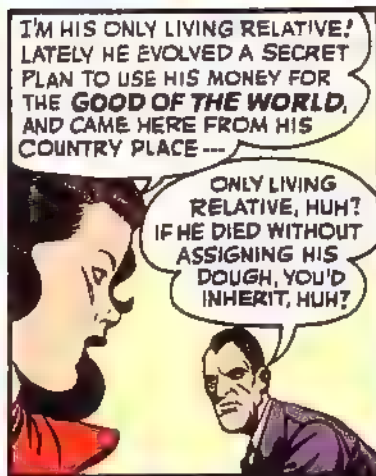
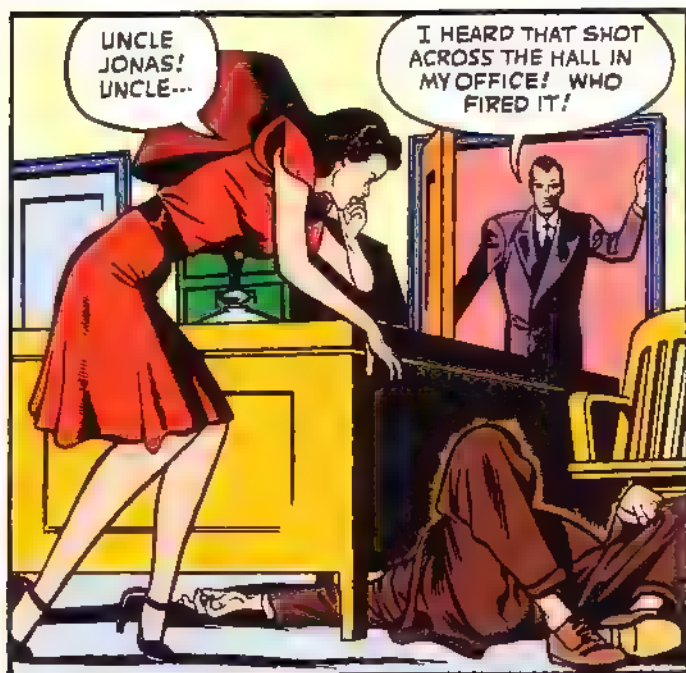


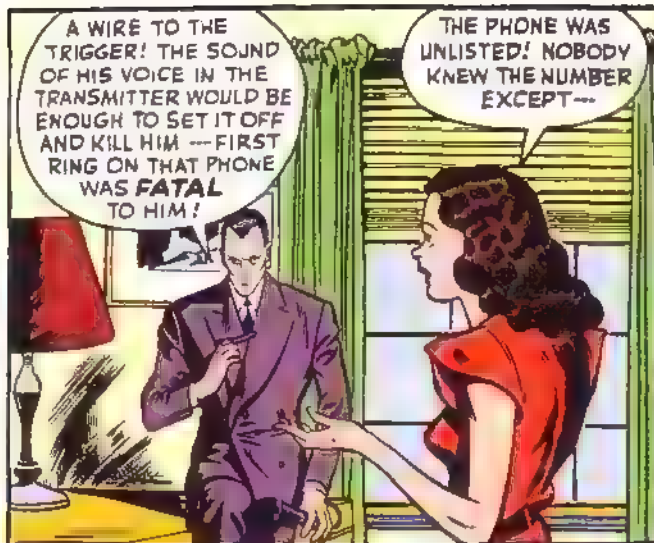
ANOTHER THING, EBONY! WHEN I WAS **DENNY COLT**, YOU REMEMBER, I WAS REALLY DECLARED DEAD! AND MY EXPERIENCE BEFORE WAKING WAS QUITE DIFFERENT! FOR ONE THING ---

WAIT TILL **DAYTIME** TO TELL ABOUT IT, WILL YOU, MIST' **SPIRIT BOSS**?









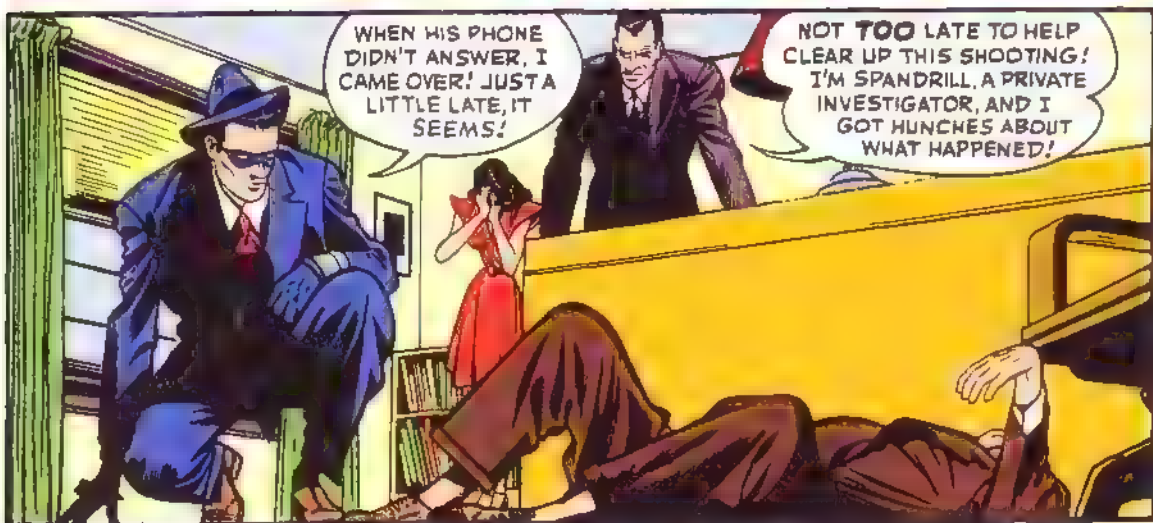
A WIRE TO THE TRIGGER! THE SOUND OF HIS VOICE IN THE TRANSMITTER WOULD BE ENOUGH TO SET IT OFF AND KILL HIM -- FIRST RING ON THAT PHONE WAS **FATAL** TO HIM!

THE PHONE WAS UNLISTED! NOBODY KNEW THE NUMBER EXCEPT--



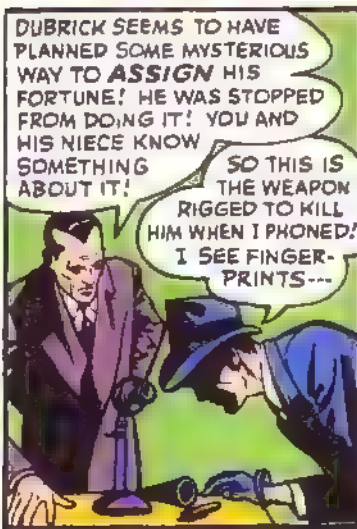
EXCEPT WHO, SISTER? YOU'RE IN A SPOT! IF YOU KNOW, YOU'D BETTER TELL QUICK!

I KNEW THE NUMBER! JONAS DUBRICK WROTE ME A LETTER!



WHEN HIS PHONE DIDN'T ANSWER, I CAME OVER! JUST A LITTLE LATE, IT SEEMS!

NOT **TOO** LATE TO HELP CLEAR UP THIS SHOOTING! I'M SPANDRILL, A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR, AND I GOT HUNCHES ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED!



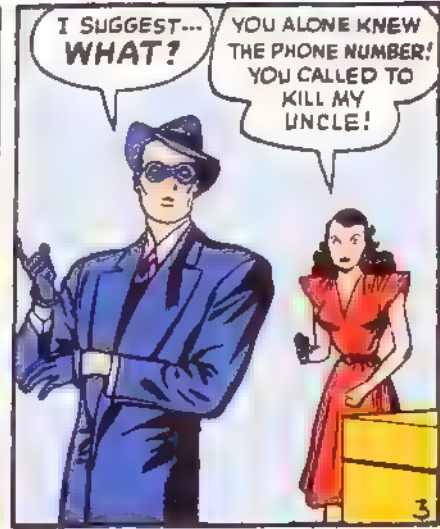
DUBRICK SEEMS TO HAVE PLANNED SOME MYSTERIOUS WAY TO **ASSIGN** HIS FORTUNE! HE WAS STOPPED FROM DOING IT! YOU AND HIS NIECE KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

SO THIS IS THE WEAPON RIGGED TO KILL HIM WHEN I PHONED! I SEE FINGER-PRINTS---



MINE, I'M AFRAID! I PULLED THE THING APART WITHOUT THINKING!

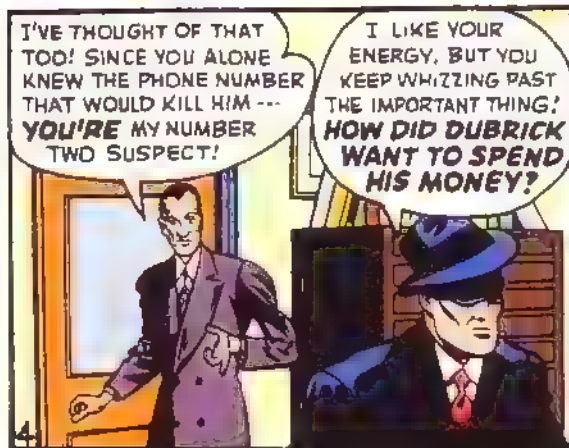
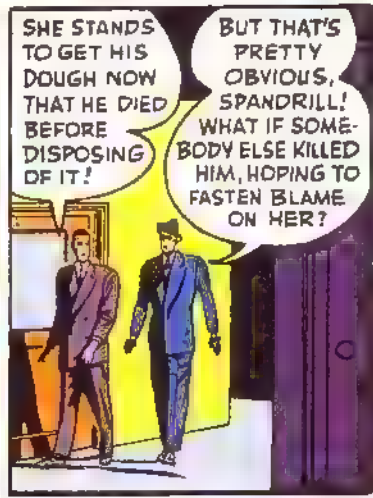
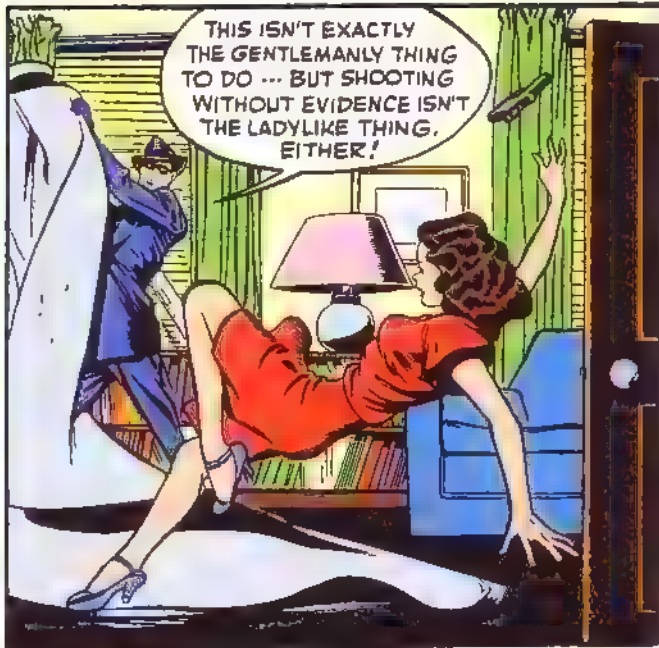
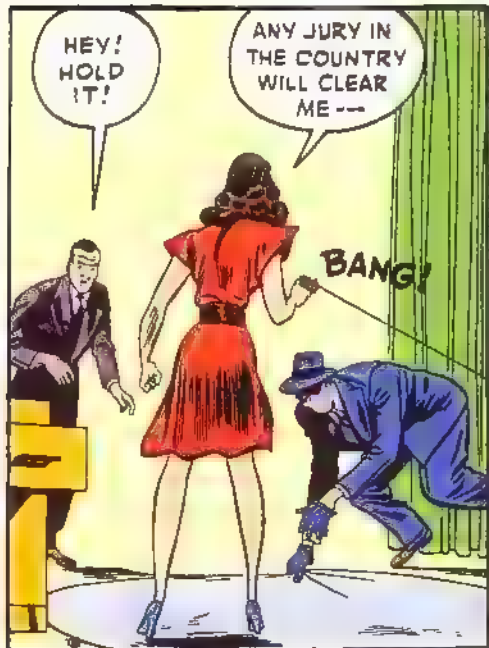
DON'T ACCUSE ANYONE WITHOUT **THINKING**, SPANDRILL! SUPPOSE WE LEARN EVERYTHING WE CAN FIRST!

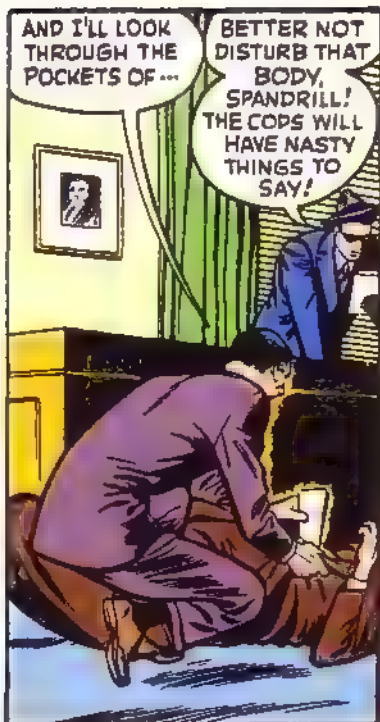


I SUGGEST... **WHAT?**

YOU ALONE KNEW THE PHONE NUMBER! YOU CALLED TO KILL MY UNCLE!







AND I'LL LOOK THROUGH THE POCKETS OF...

BETTER NOT DISTURB THAT BODY, SPANDRILL! THE COPS WILL HAVE NASTY THINGS TO SAY!



RIGHT, SPIRIT, WE'LL LEAVE HIM WHERE HE IS! WHAT'S THAT YOU FOUND?

A LIST--HMM-- NAMES INCLUDING **NUGGET HASTINGS, LARDY ATTERY, TRIGGER LA RUE...**



I'VE HEARD OF SOME OF THEM! GANG CHIEFS AND THUGS, AREN'T THEY?

HEAD OF THE CRIMINAL CLASS! THIS OTHER LIST SAYS **PROFESSOR MAX FORODAY, CAPTAIN CONNATT, SIR CRISPIN WHITELAKE...**



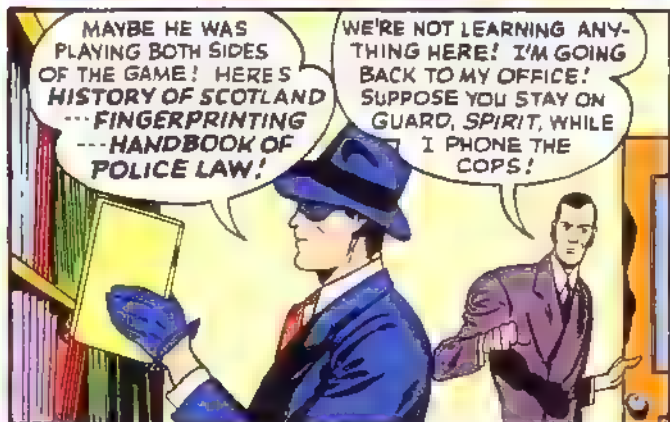
ALL NAMES OF **FAMOUS CRIMINOLOGISTS!** WHY SHOULD DUBRICK HAVE LISTED COPS AND ROBBERS **BOTH?**

DON'T ASK ME!



INTERESTING LIBRARY HE HAD! **BOOK OF POISONS... MANUFACTURE OF EXPLOSIVES ---LIVES OF FAMOUS RACKET BOSSES---**

WAS THE OLD GUY GOING TO SPEND MONEY ON A BIG CRIME CORPORATION?



MAYBE HE WAS PLAYING BOTH SIDES OF THE GAME! HERE'S **HISTORY OF SCOTLAND ---FINGERPRINTING ---HANDBOOK OF POLICE LAW!**

WE'RE NOT LEARNING ANYTHING HERE! I'M GOING BACK TO MY OFFICE! SUPPOSE YOU STAY ON GUARD, SPIRIT, WHILE I PHONE THE COPS!



But it is not the police number that Spandrill has dialed....

LOOK, CHIEF, I DID IT! AND I GOT THE EVIDENCE, THE ONE PAPER WITH HIS PLAN WRITTEN OUT IN FULL! THE COPS CAN HAVE EITHER ONE OF TWO SWELL SUSPECTS I'VE FRAMED TO TAKE THE FALL!



NICE THING IS I'LL BE ESTABLISHED AS A SMART PRIVATE DICK! I CAN FRONT FOR OUR OUTFIT ON OTHER JOBS! COME ON OVER...

GLAD YOU'RE INVITING YOUR ACCOMPLICES HERE SPANDRILL! I SAW YOU TAKE THE PAPER FROM THAT COAT! I FIGURED DUBRICK'S PLAN, ANYWAY!



DUBRICK WAS SETTING UP A MASTER CRIME LABORATORY! YOU WERE HIRED TO KILL HIM BY GANG CHIEFS WHO COULDN'T AFFORD SUCH A MENACE!

OKAY! SO I DID IT! SNEAKED IN TO RIG THAT RECEIVER-GUN ---- SENT A TELEGRAM WHERE I KNEW YOU'D GET IT AND PHONE HIM!



NOW WHEN YOUR FELLOW CONSPIRATORS ARRIVE---

THEY OUGHT TO BE HERE RIGHT NOW SPIRIT!



WE WERE RIGHT ON THE SAME FLOOR, SPIRIT! AND WE GOT YOU!

GRAB HIM OFF OF THERE, SPANDRILL!

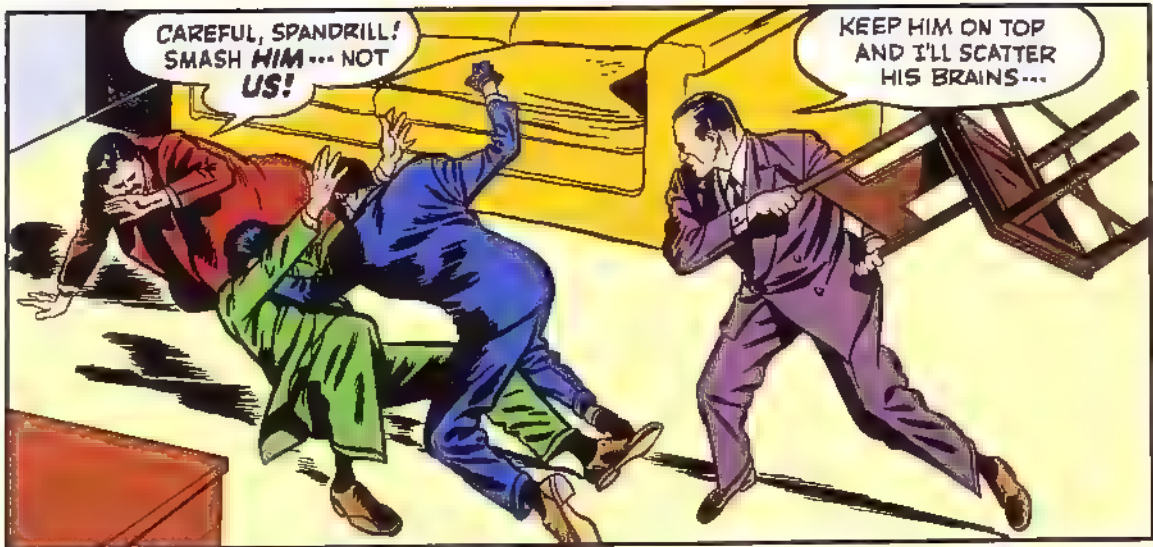


DON'T WORRY---I'LL COME DOWN ---AND SO WILL YOU!

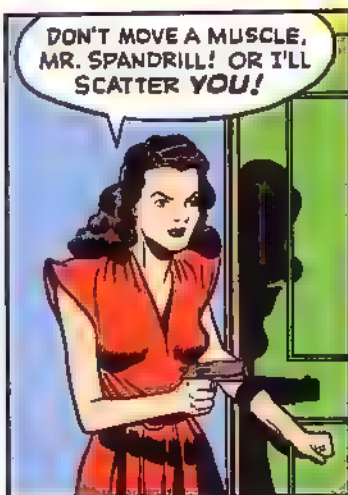


CAREFUL, SPANDRILL!  
SMASH HIM... NOT  
US!

KEEP HIM ON TOP  
AND I'LL SCATTER  
HIS BRAINS...



DON'T MOVE A MUSCLE,  
MR. SPANDRILL! OR I'LL  
SCATTER YOU!



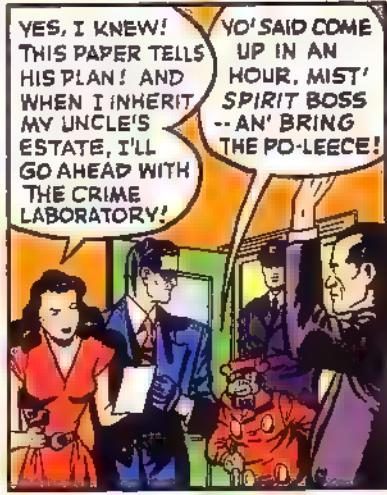
I CAME BACK,  
READY TO AVENGE  
MY UNCLE! BUT  
I HEARD WHAT  
WAS SAID AND  
KNEW THE  
SPIRIT WASN'T  
GUILTY!

YOUR UNCLE  
WOULD BE  
PROUD OF YOU!  
IF HE HADN'T  
DIED, HE'D HAVE  
SPENT HIS  
MILLIONS TO  
HELP FIGHT  
CRIME!



YES, I KNEW!  
THIS PAPER TELLS  
HIS PLAN! AND  
WHEN I INHERIT  
MY UNCLE'S  
ESTATE, I'LL  
GO AHEAD WITH  
THE CRIME  
LABORATORY!

YO' SAID COME  
UP IN AN  
HOUR, MIST'  
SPIRIT BOSS  
-- AN' BRING  
THE PO-LEECE!



SO YOU  
INVITED THE  
COPS UP! HOW  
DID YOU  
KNOW---

I DIDN'T WHEN I GAVE  
EBONY HIS INSTRUCTIONS!  
BUT I GENERALLY SOLVE  
CASES IN ABOUT AN HOUR,  
AND I HATE TO WAIT  
AROUND!



I'M GLAD YOU'RE  
CLEARED, SPIRIT!  
WORKING WITH YOU  
WILL BE A PLEASURE!  
I'LL GIVE YOU MY  
PHONE NUMBER---

GO EASY, MISS LORIS!  
THIS CASE SHOWS WHAT  
TROUBLE CAN BE  
CAUSED BY A  
TELEPHONE  
CALL!





SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1945

# The SPARIT



At the gate of the de luxe  
Trovell estate...

JUST AS THE CHAUFFEUR  
SAID TO THE BUTLER ---  
MY GATE HOUSE HAS  
BEEN BLOWN UP! I'D  
LIKE TO SEE THE  
SCOUNDREL WHO  
DID IT!

YOU SEE  
ME RIGHT  
HERE, MR. TROVELL!  
HOW DO I  
LOOK?

CALL ME NITRO -- I'M  
EXPLOSIVE! I DID THAT  
AS A SAMPLE OF WHAT  
I'LL DO TO YOUR PLACE  
IF YOU DON'T PAY ME ---  
SHALL WE SAY TEN  
GRAND?

WHAT'S THIS?  
THREATS! BLACKMAIL?  
EXTORTION? OUT  
OF MY SIGHT,  
SIR!

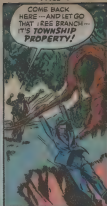
I'LL TELEPHONE  
THE POLICE --- SEE  
THAT YOU LAND  
IN PRISON!

YOU'LL BE  
SORRY!





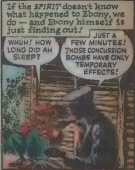








Minutes later, as the *SPIRIT* comes to the spot...





MY CONCUSSION BOMB KNOCKED YOU SILLY, AND I BROUGHT YOU HERE FOR A PURPOSE!

MY, OH, MY! I'LL BET IT'S FO' NO GOOD!

SEE THIS CANISTER? IT'S FULL OF MY MOST PERFECT EXPLOSIVE! I MIX DYNAMITE WITH IT TO TONE IT DOWN! YOU'LL WEAR IT AROUND YOUR NECK —

NOSSUH! AH DON' CARE FO' THAT 'N'D O' JEWELRY!

SORRY, BUT YOU'RE NOT GIVING THE ORDERS! YOU'LL WEAR IT — AND GET INTO —

INTO WHAT? AH'M ALREADY INTO THIS MESS TOO FAR!



INTO **THIS!** A VERY SMALL CHARGE WILL SHOOT YOU CLEAR INTO TROVELL'S FRONT YARD —

BUT AH'M NOT TRAINED FO' SUCH A FANCY STUNT!

YOU NEED NO TRAINING! FOR THE EXPLOSIVE YOU CAREY WILL **BLOW YOU TO BITS** — AS A **FINAL WARNING** TO TROVELL!

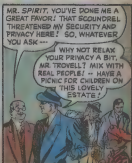
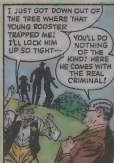
I HOPE YOU'RE COMMITTING THIS TO MEMORY, ERONY! IT'LL BE FIRST-CLASS EVIDENCE WHEN WE DRAG HIM INTO COURT!



WHEN NITRO CARRIED YOU HERE, ERONY, THE EXTRA WEIGHT MADE **HIS** FOOTPRINTS AS GOOD A TRAIL AS YOURS!

SNOOPING INTO MY SECRETS? HERE'S A SECRET THAT WILL —





COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

DEATH, SOUTH AMERICAN STYLE

October 28 1945

ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

# The SPIRIT



From the faraway depths of the South American jungle comes **DEATH** in a primitive but subtle form to strike in Central City, U.S.A.



What a homecoming for Johnny Carter....

THERE HE IS,  
BURBY! THE GUY  
WHO FIGURES TO  
TAKE YOUR GIRL  
AWAY!

I'LL -- I'LL  
SMASH  
HIM!

OKAY, YOU HEEL!--  
GONNA STEAL FLORRIE  
HUH? C'MON INTO THE  
--ALLEY--- I'LL ---

I SUPPOSE  
THE EASIEST  
WAY OUT IS  
TO FIGHT!  
LET'S GET IT  
OVER WITH,  
BURBY!

NOW -- NOBODY'LL  
BOTHR US HERE --  
I'LL -- **WUK!**

IT'S NOT FAIR TO  
HIT YOU IN THIS  
CONDITION, BUT  
IT SEEMS I  
MUST!

DID I REALLY HIT  
YOU THAT HARD? YOU'RE  
AWFULLY QUIET, FOR  
SOMEONE SO FULL OF  
FIGHT A MOMENT  
AGO ---

BURBY -  
YOU --  
**DEAD!**

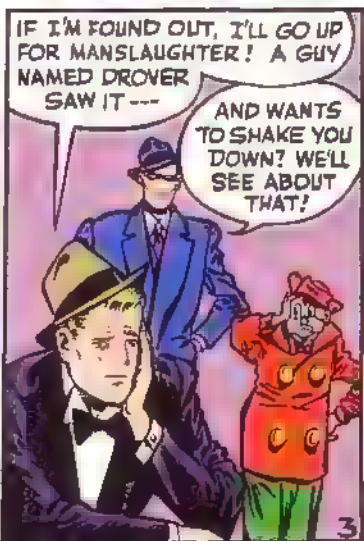
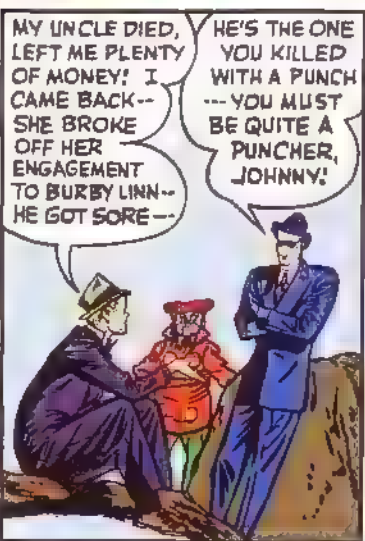
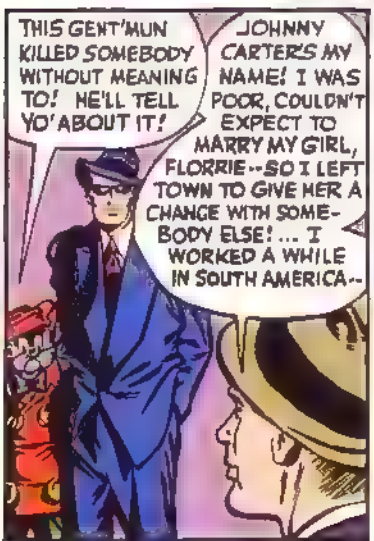
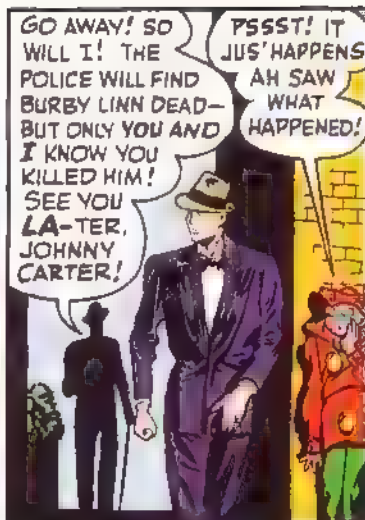
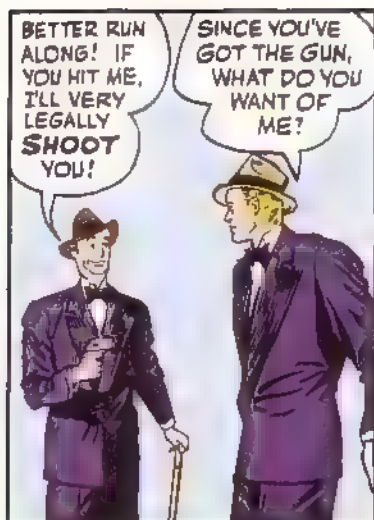
YOU SEEM TO  
HAVE STOPPED  
HIS HEART,  
JOHNNY  
CARTER!

WHO ARE  
YOU? WHAT'S  
YOUR INTEREST  
IN THIS  
SQUABBLE?

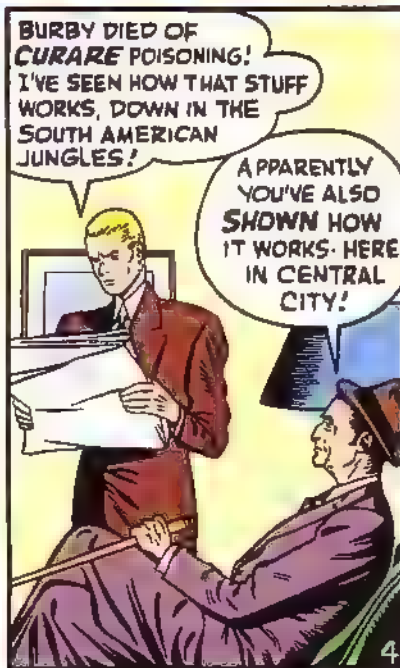
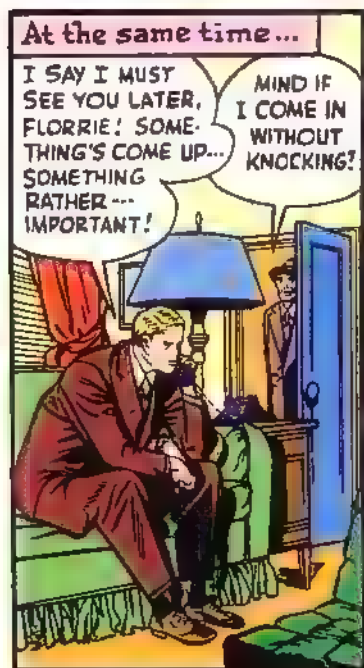
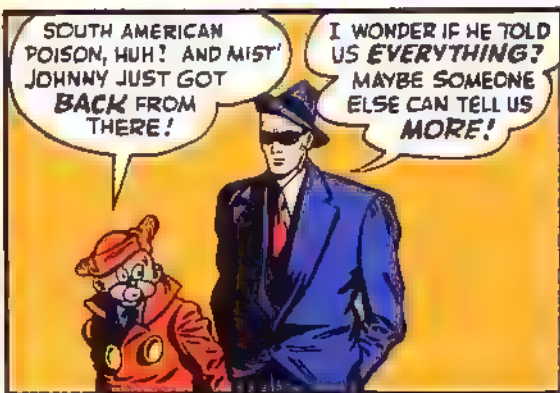
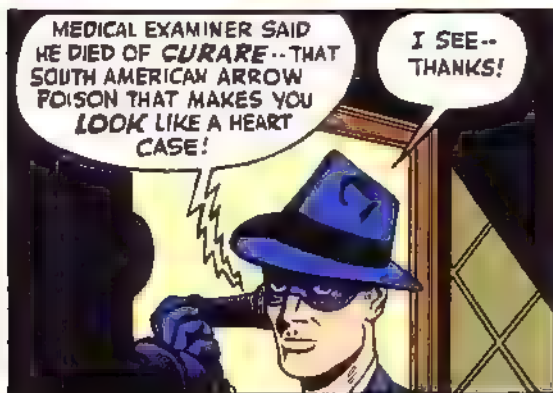
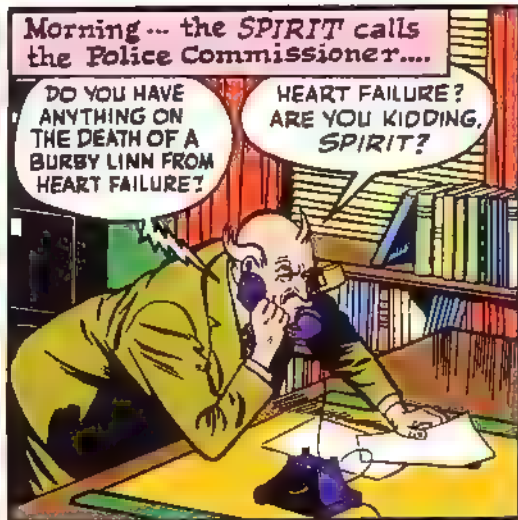
DROVER'S MY  
NAME -- AND  
BY TRADE,  
I'M AN  
**ON-THE-  
SPOTTER!**

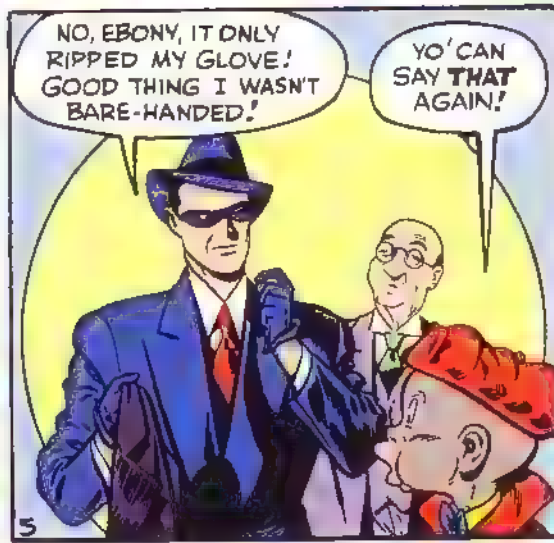
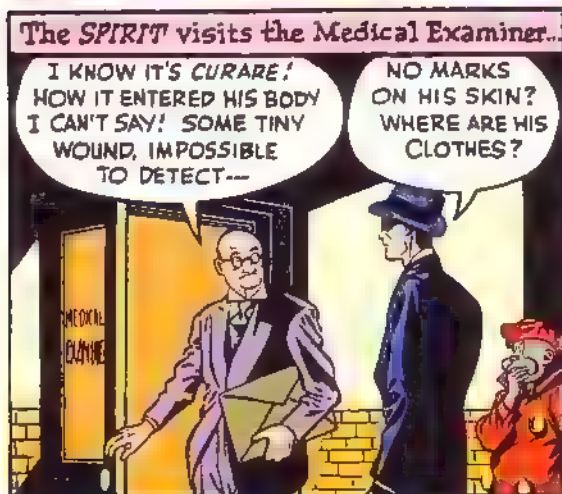
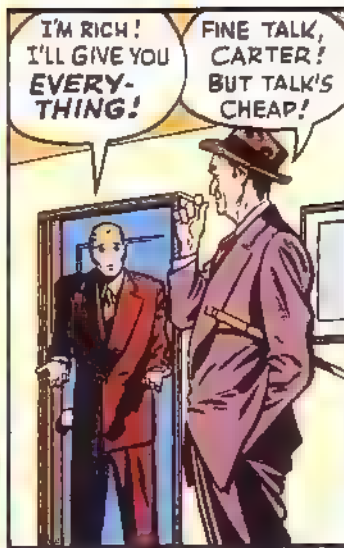
I MAKE MY LIVING BY BEING  
**ON THE SPOT** TO SEE  
THINGS LIKE THIS HAPPEN,  
AND WHO'S THERE AT THE  
TIME -- ESPECIALLY  
PEOPLE WITH MONEY---

**BLACKMAIL,**  
IS IT?

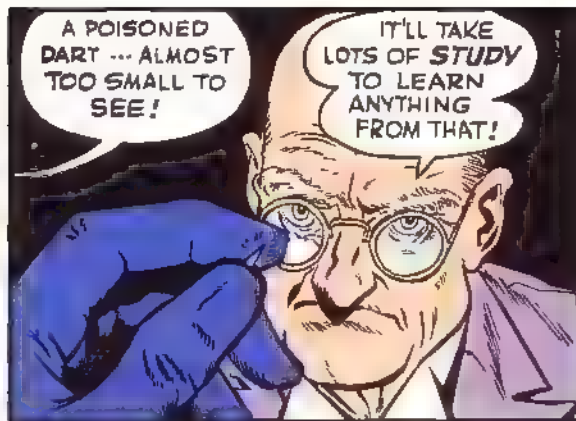






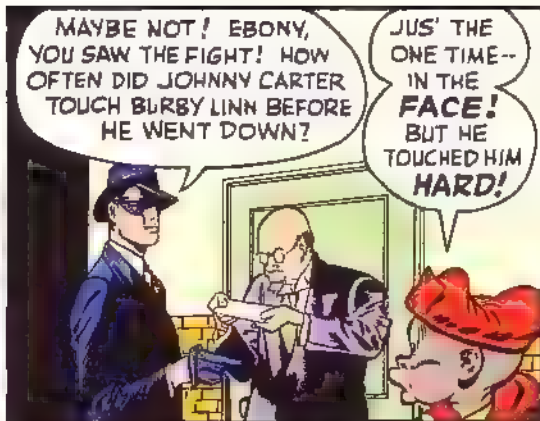






A POISONED  
DART ... ALMOST  
TOO SMALL TO  
SEE!

IT'LL TAKE  
LOTS OF **STUDY**  
TO LEARN  
ANYTHING  
FROM THAT!

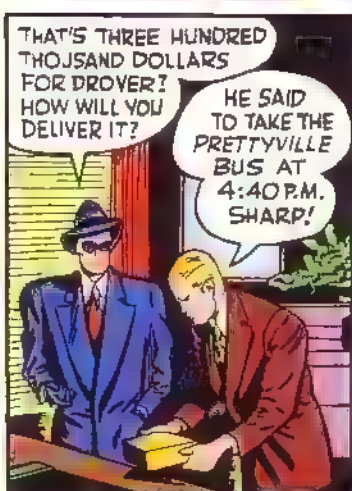


MAYBE NOT! EBONY,  
YOU SAW THE FIGHT! HOW  
OFTEN DID JOHNNY CARTER  
TOUCH BURBY LINN BEFORE  
HE WENT DOWN?

JUS' THE  
ONE TIME--  
IN THE  
**FACE!**  
BUT HE  
TOUCHED HIM  
**HARD!**

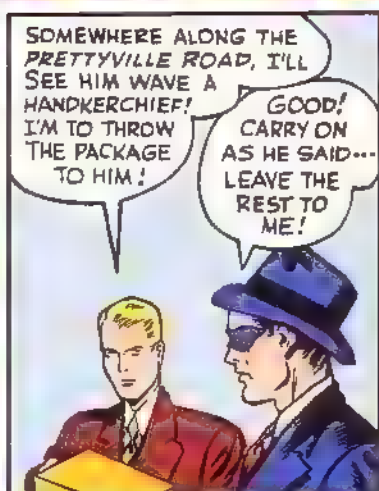


THAT'S ENOUGH!  
COME ON!



THAT'S THREE HUNDRED  
THOUSAND DOLLARS  
FOR DROVER?  
HOW WILL YOU  
DELIVER IT?

HE SAID  
TO TAKE THE  
PRETTYVILLE  
BUS AT  
4:40 P.M.  
SHARP!



SOMEWHERE ALONG THE  
PRETTYVILLE ROAD, I'LL  
SEE HIM WAVE A  
HANDKERCHIEF!  
I'M TO THROW  
THE PACKAGE  
TO HIM!

GOOD!  
CARRY ON  
AS HE SAID...  
LEAVE THE  
REST TO  
ME!



HERE IT COMES! I'LL  
BE GONE WITH THE PACKAGE  
BEFORE HE CAN STOP THE  
BUS OR IN ANYWAY  
TRACE ME!



GOT  
IT!

AND I'VE  
GOT  
YOU!

YOU'RE GOING TO CHARGE ME WITH BLACKMAIL? BUT THIS IS ONLY A **PRIVATE TRANSACTION** BETWEEN JOHNNY CARTER AND MYSELF!

THE CHARGE ISN'T BLACKMAIL, DROVER! IT'S **MURDER!**



HOW COULD I HAVE KILLED BURBY LINN? THE ONLY ONE TO TOUCH HIM WAS JOHNNY CARTER!

I FOUND THE POISONED DART, DROVER! IT WAS STUCK IN BURBY LINN'S COAT--THE **BACK OF THE COAT!**

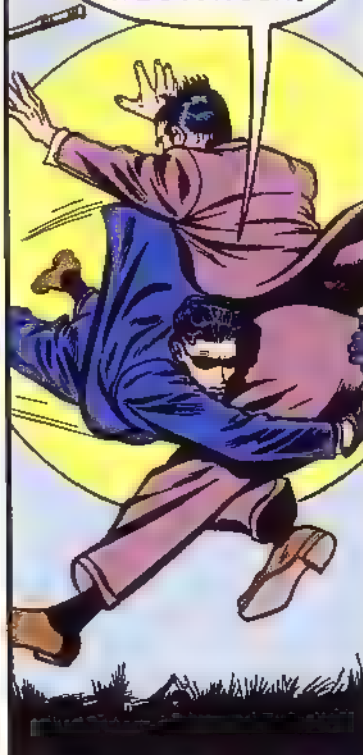


JOHNNY HIT HIM IN THE **FACE!** YOU, THE ONLY OTHER PERSON THERE, SENT THAT DART INTO HIM FROM **BEHIND!**

CLEVER!-- BUT YOU'LL NEVER TESTIFY --



I WAS WAITING FOR YOU TO REVEAL THE **BLOWGUN!**



I BROUGHT MIST' DOLAN LIKE YOU TOLD ME, MIST' **SPIRIT BOSS!**

HERE'S THE MURDERER OF BURBY LINN! BY THE WAY, DROVER--NOW'S THE TIME TO OPEN THAT PACKAGE WE FIXED FOR YOU!



AND YOU'LL SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE **BEHIND BARS!**





COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

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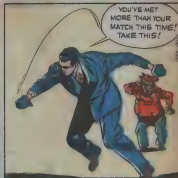
# RECORD

PHILADELPHIA

ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1945











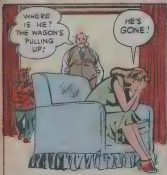




CALL THE  
NEAREST  
ASYLUM,  
OF COURSE!  
THE SPIRIT'S  
LOONIER THAN A TICK!



SPIRIT, WAIT!  
YOU CAN'T GO  
ANYPLACE IN  
YOUR CONDITION!  
YOU MIGHT GET  
HURT!



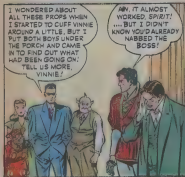
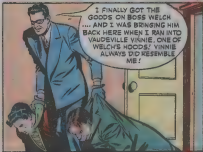
HE'S  
GONE!



I COULDN'T  
STOP HIM!







**COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION**

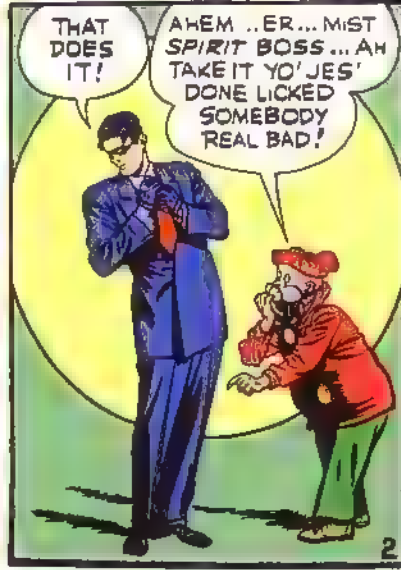
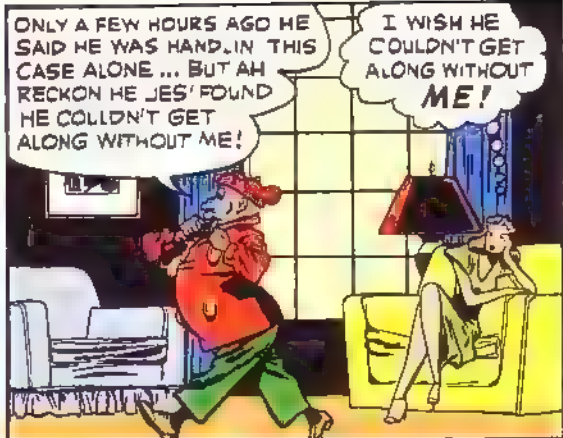
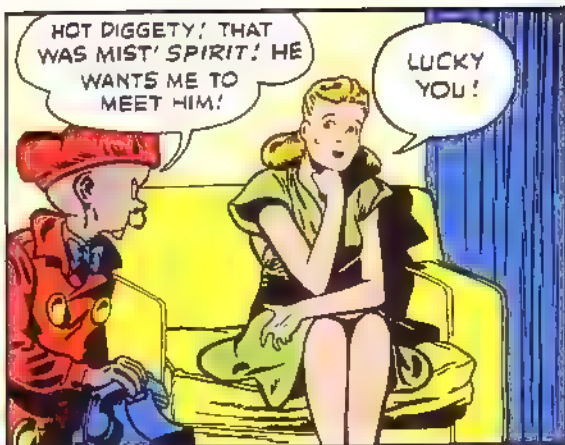
**VAUDEVILLE VINNIE**

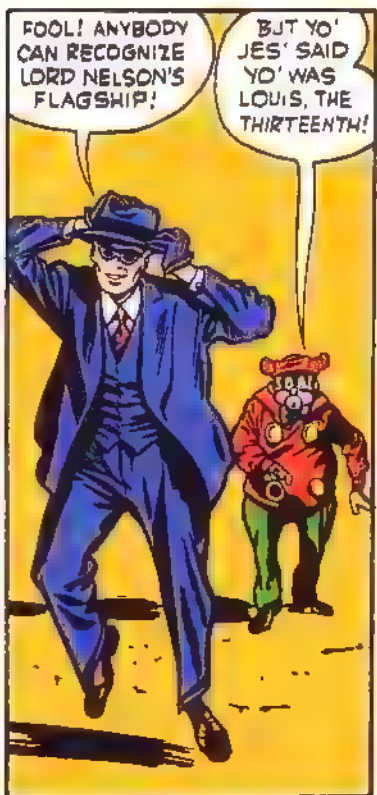
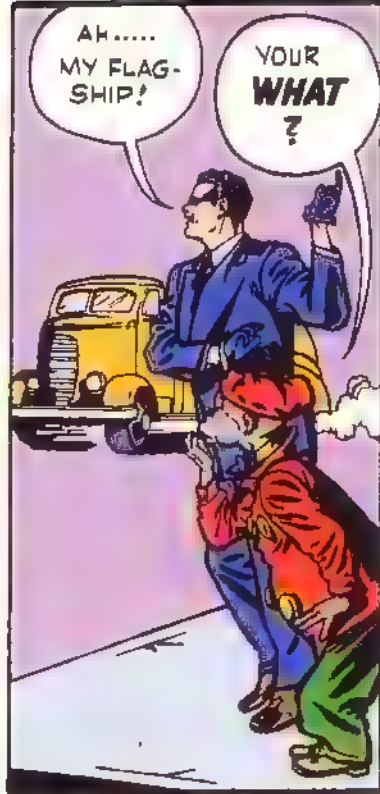
November 4 1945

**ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE**

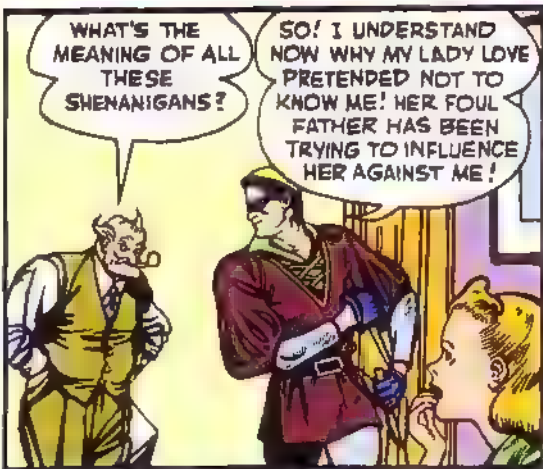
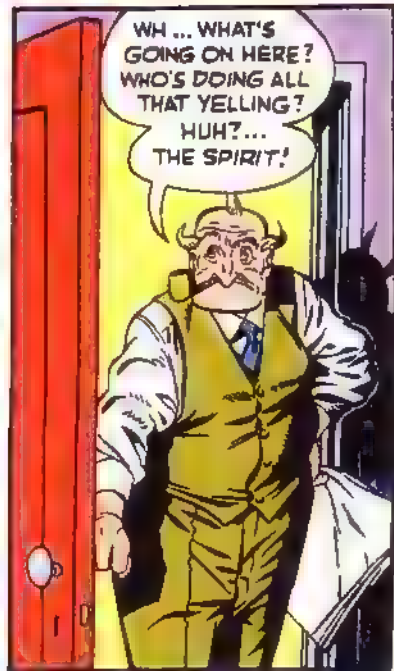
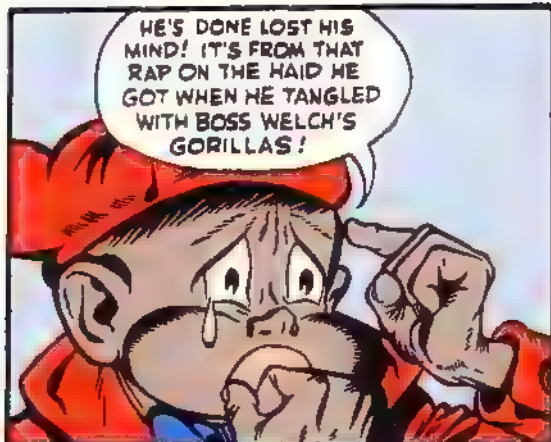


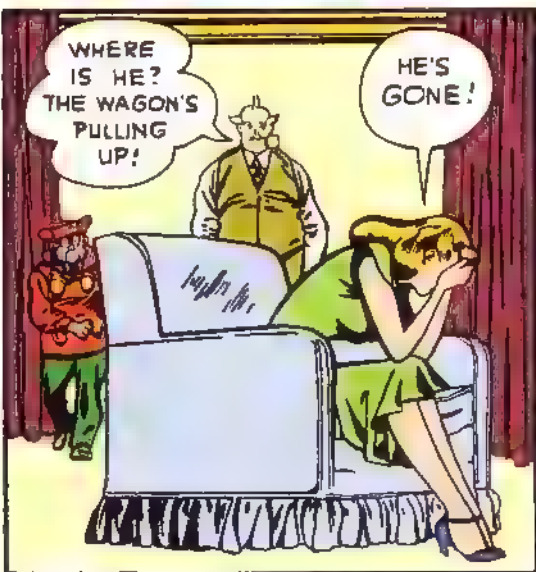




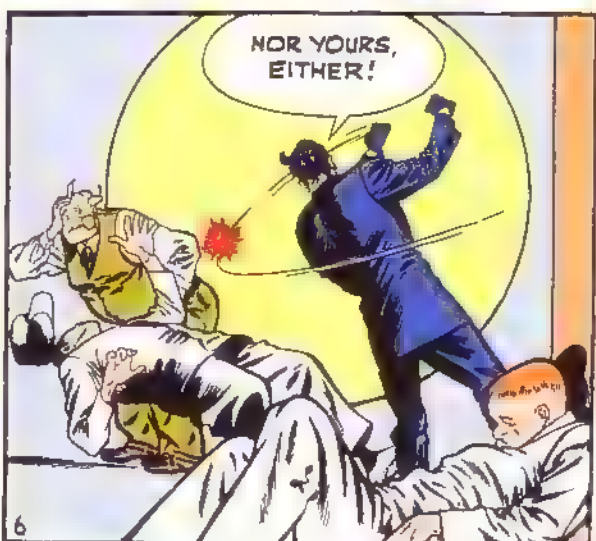


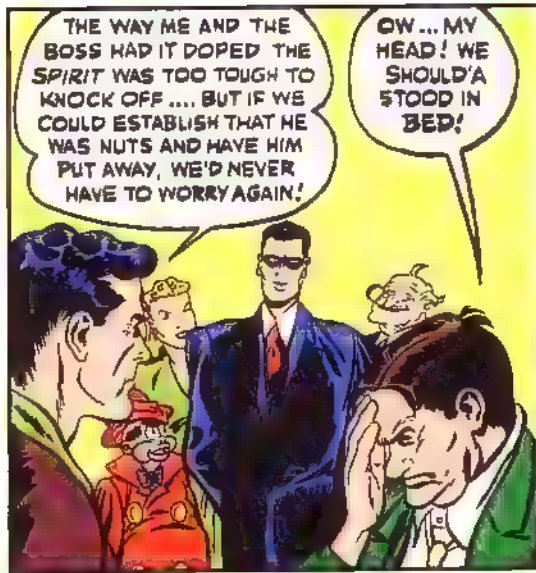
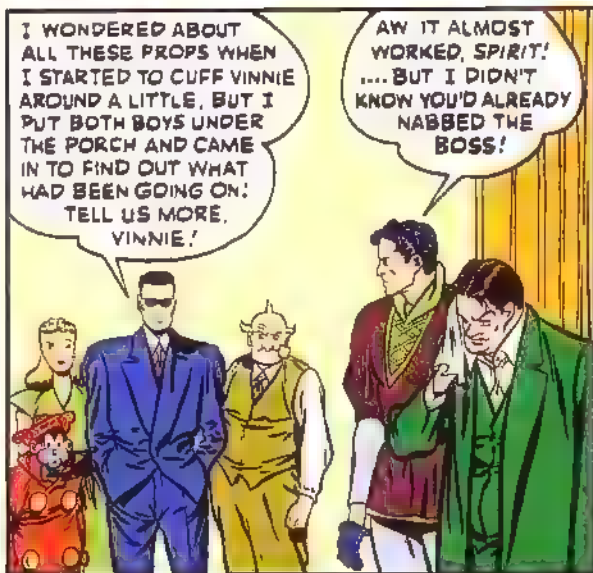
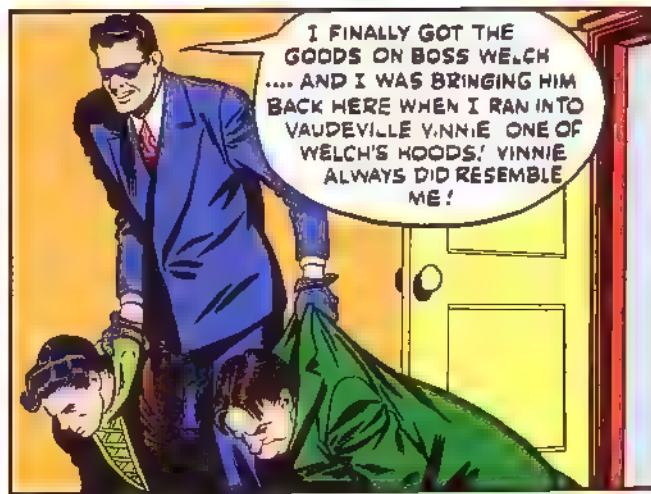
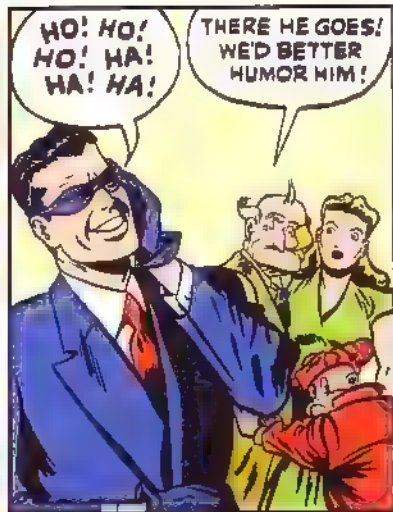
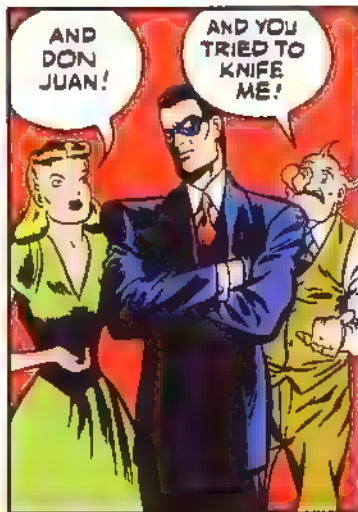
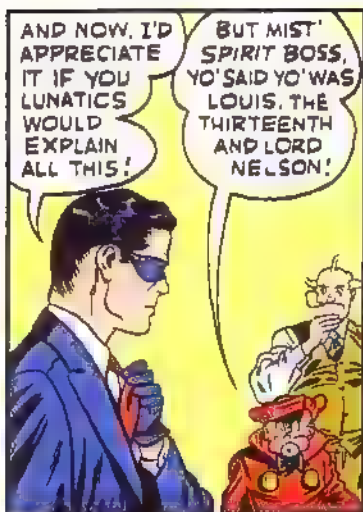














# THE SPIRIT

AH'M GOIN'  
TO THE MOVIES  
WIF BRUTUS, EBONY!  
YO'S **UNCOUTH**  
TO MAKE A  
FUSS!

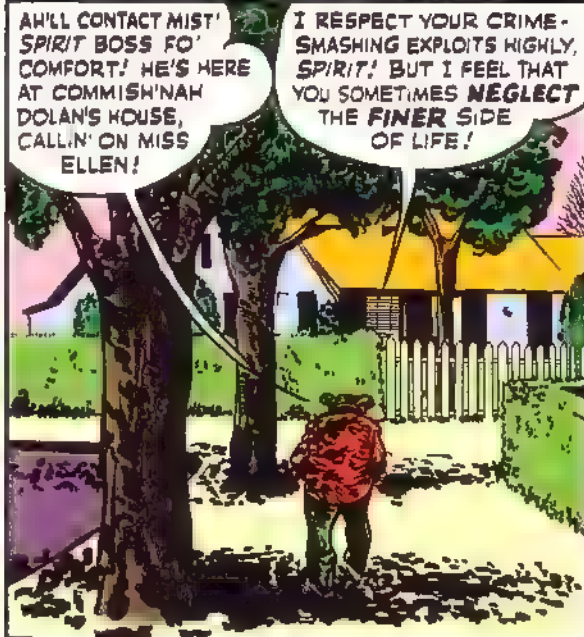
WHY DO YO'  
CALL **ME** UNCOUTH,  
SCAHLETT? BRUTUS  
IS NOT SO **COUTH**  
HIMSELF!



C'MON SCAHLETT!  
WE'S DONE ENOUGH  
SLUMMIN' FO' TODAY!  
G'BYE, ALSO-RAN!

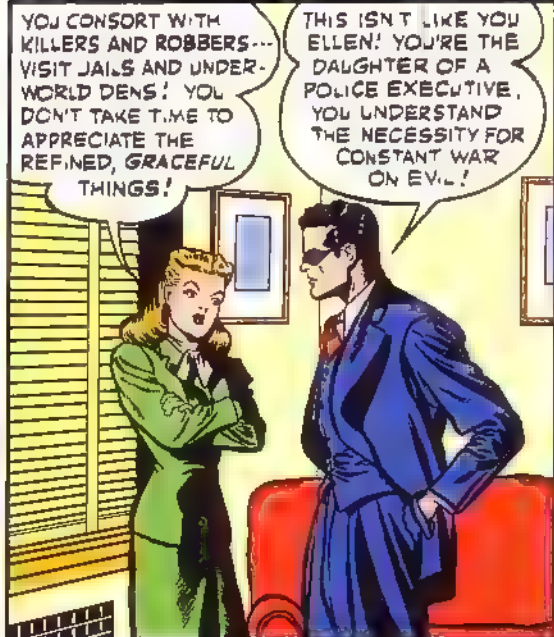
DOGGONE ALL WOMEN!  
AH WISH AH DIDN'T LAK  
'EM LAK AH DO!





AH! I'LL CONTACT MIST' SPIRIT BOSS FO' COMFORT! HE'S HERE AT COMMISH'NAH DOLAN'S HOUSE, CALLIN' ON MISS ELLEN!

I RESPECT YOUR CRIME-SMASHING EXPLOITS HIGHLY, SPIRIT! BUT I FEEL THAT YOU SOMETIMES **NEGLECT** THE **FINER** SIDE OF LIFE!



YOU CONSORT WITH KILLERS AND ROBBERS... VISIT JAILS AND UNDERWORLD DENS! YOU DON'T TAKE TIME TO APPRECIATE THE REFINED, GRACEFUL THINGS!

THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU ELLEN! YOU'RE THE DAUGHTER OF A POLICE EXECUTIVE, YOU UNDERSTAND THE NECESSITY FOR CONSTANT WAR ON EVIL!



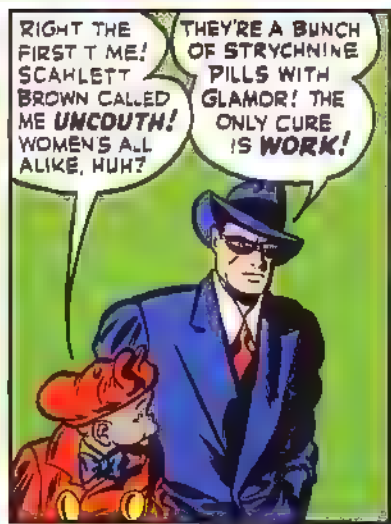
YOU'VE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN THAT WAR FOR SO LONG... WHY NOT GIVE YOURSELF A FURLOUGH? MIX WITH THE ELITE... LIKE THAT NICE KIPPY VAN SCUMWATER...

DON'T QUOTE THAT POWDER-PUFF TO ME! I THINK I'M OVERDUE OUT OF HERE!



AH HEARD, MIST' SPIRIT BOSS! AH KNOW JEST HOW YO' FEEL-- LIKE A CROSS BETWEEN A WORM AND A MAD TIGER!

SOUNDS AS IF YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLES OF YOUR OWN EBONY!



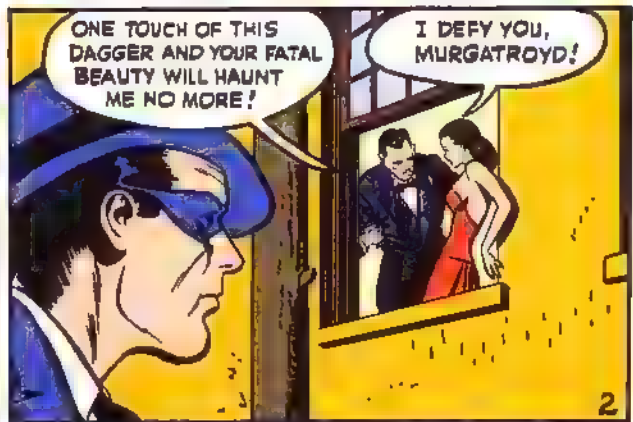
RIGHT THE FIRST T ME! SCAHLETT BROWN CALLED ME **UNCOUTH!** WOMEN'S ALL ALIKE, HUH?

THEY'RE A BUNCH OF STRYCHNINE PILLS WITH GLAMOR! THE ONLY CURE IS **WORK!**



SO LET'S DO SOME HEAVY DETECTING! PERHAPS...

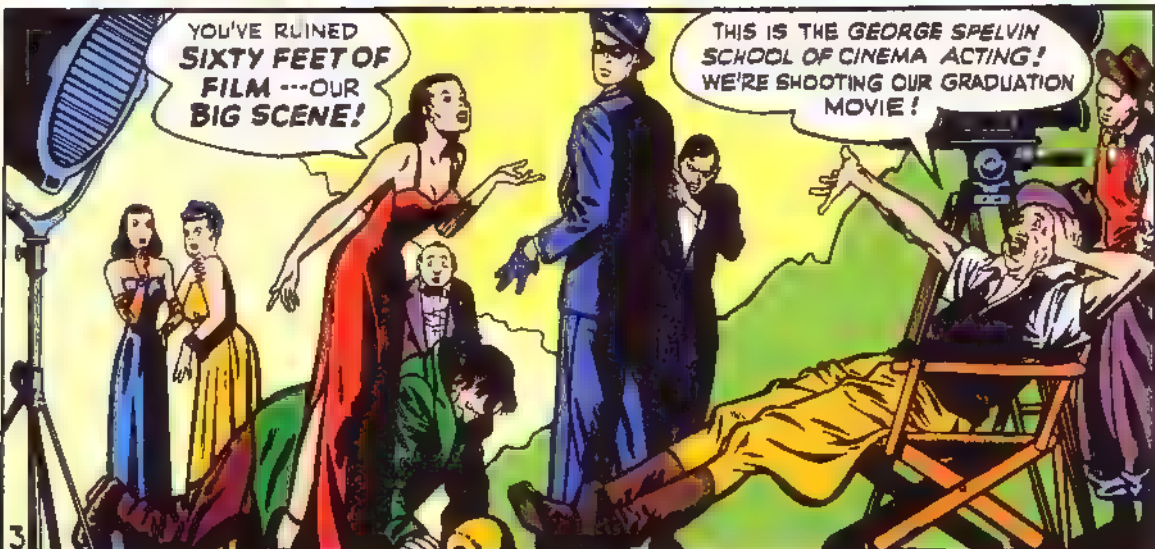
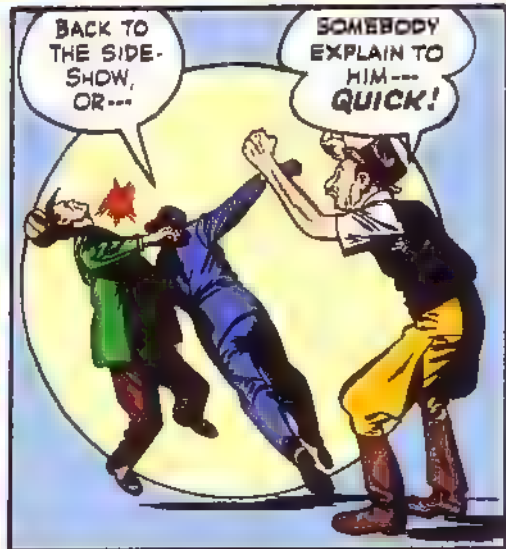
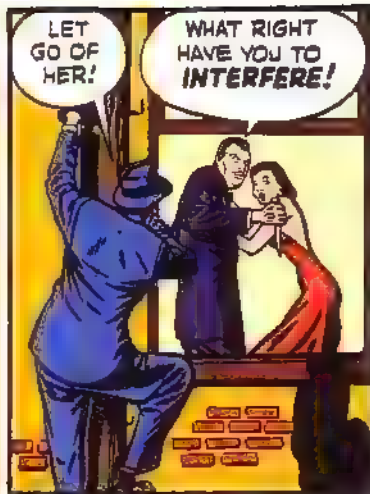
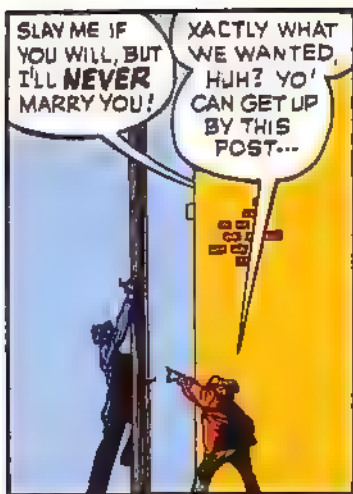
MIST' SPIRIT BOSS! LOOK UP YONDER!



ONE TOUCH OF THIS DAGGER AND YOUR FATAL BEAUTY WILL HAUNT ME NO MORE!

I DEFY YOU, MURGATROYD!





WELL, ALL I CAN SAY IS--- I'M SORRY! DEEPLY SORRY!

WAIT, YOUNG MAN! I'M RATHER GLAD YOU DROPPED IN! GEORGE SPELVIN'S MY NAME--DIRECTOR OF THIS SCHOOL--



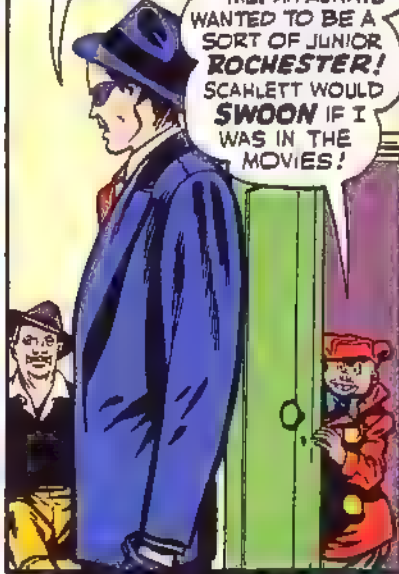
YOU'VE A RATHER INTERESTING FACE---LOTS OF DYNAMIC ACTION! I THINK YOU OUGHT TO PLAY THE **LEAD** IN THIS FILM!

MAYBE I SHOULD DO IT, JUST TO SHOW ELLEN---BUT I'M NOT REALLY SUITED FOR THIS WORK!



THANKS, MR. SPELVIN, BUT I DOUBT IF I CAN! I HAVE A YOUNG FRIEND OUTSIDE, AND WE HAVE A SORT OF PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT!

HE MEANS ME! AH ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A SORT OF JUNIOR **ROCHESTER!** SCARLETT WOULD **SWOON** IF I WAS IN THE MOVIES!



QUITE SO, MY LITTLE MAN! YOU'D BE A REAL ASSET TO THE PICTURE! IF YOUR PARTNER HERE CONSENTS---

WELL, IF EBONY'S HEART IS SET ON IT, LET'S GET GRINDING!



ER--THERE'S A SLIGHT FORMALITY--- YOU MUST **ENROLL** IN THE SCHOOL! THERE'S A -- ER -- FEE OF TWENTY DOLLARS EACH TO DEFRAY COST OF FILM, MAKE-UP, AND SO ON!

I'M GAME! HERE'S THE FEE FOR BOTH OF US!

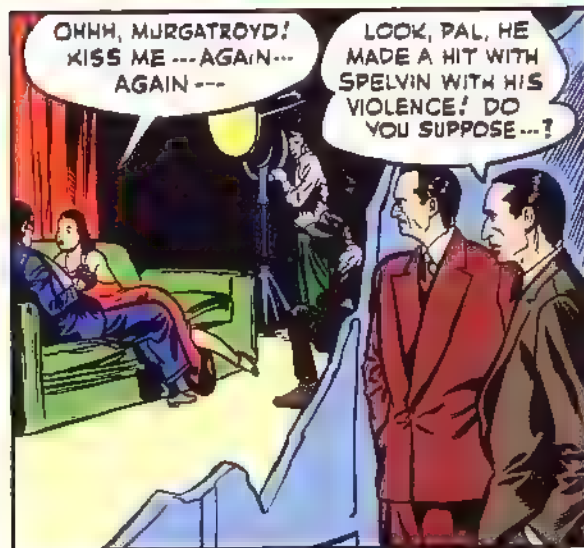
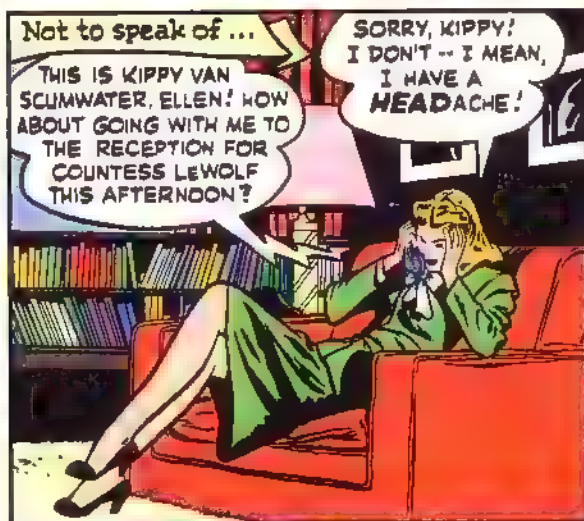
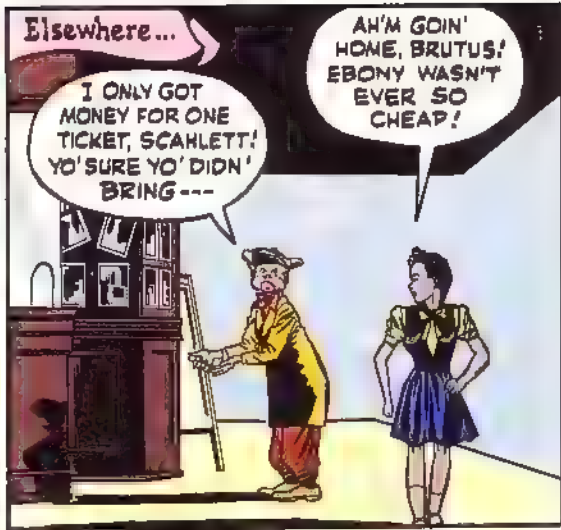


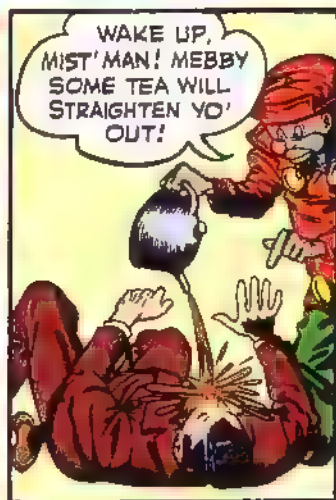
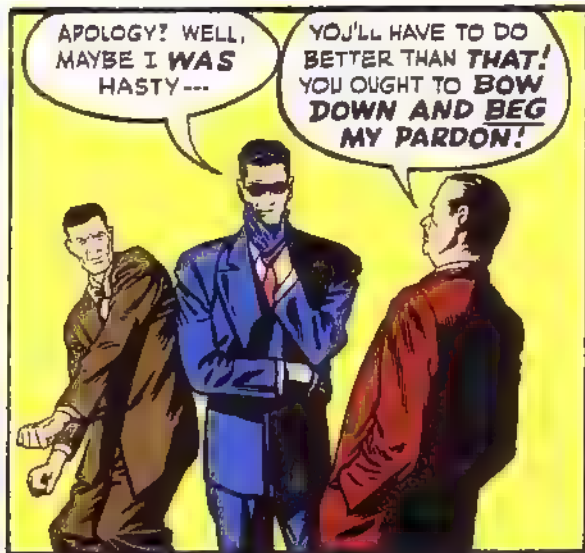
ALL RIGHT, YOU'LL PLAY MURGATROYD -- THE DEMON LOVER WHOSE VIOLENT CHARM CAPTIVATES THE HEROINE!

I'M GOING TO LIKE THIS! LET'S **REHEARSE!**

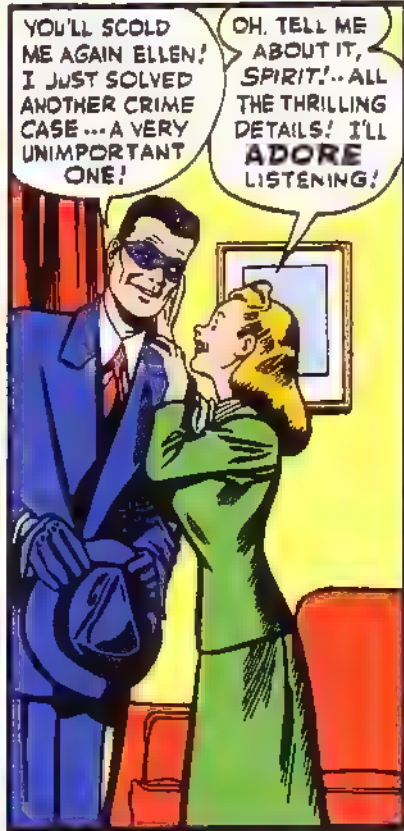












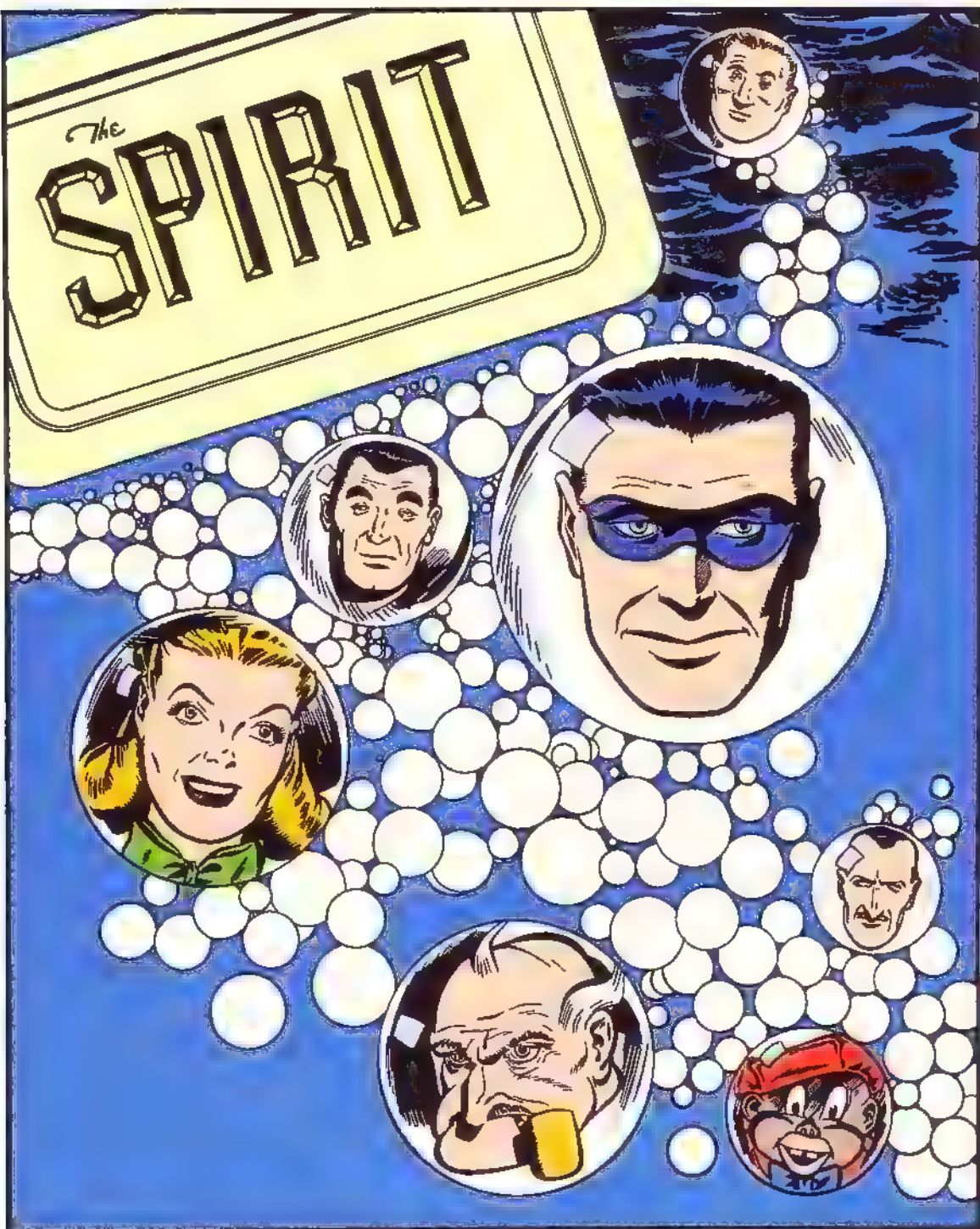
**COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION**

**SOAPY KEEPS IT CLEAN**

November 25, 1945

**ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE**

# The SPIRIT





Soapy was always a modest man, but his fame has sought him out....

WE GOT THE GOODS ON YOL, SOAPY! YOU'VE BEEN THE SILENT BRA N BEHIND ALL THOSE STOCK EXCHANGE SWINDLES!

OKAY! OKAY! I'LL GO WITH YOU AS SOON AS I FINISH WASHING UP!

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A SAP FOR CLEANLINESS! THAT'S WHY THEY CALL ME SOAPY!

NEVER MIND THE BIOGRAPHY! IF YOU'RE READY, COME ON ---

I'M READY, ALL RIGHT! GET AN EYE FULL OF THIS!

**YAWKKK!**

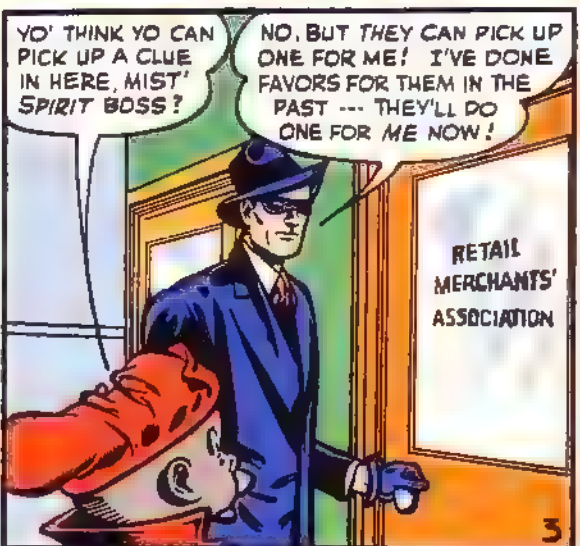
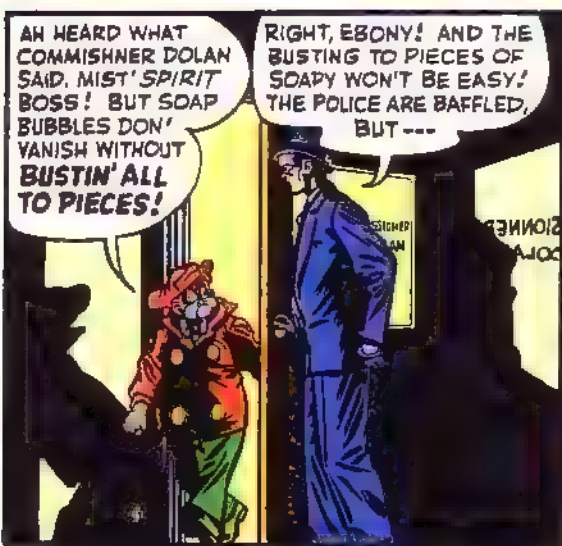
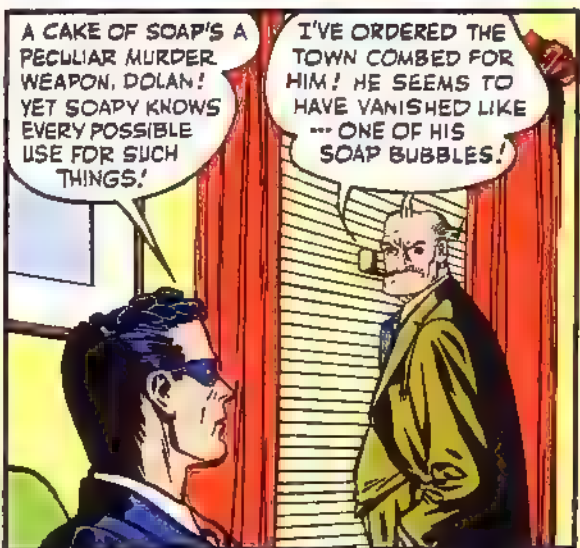
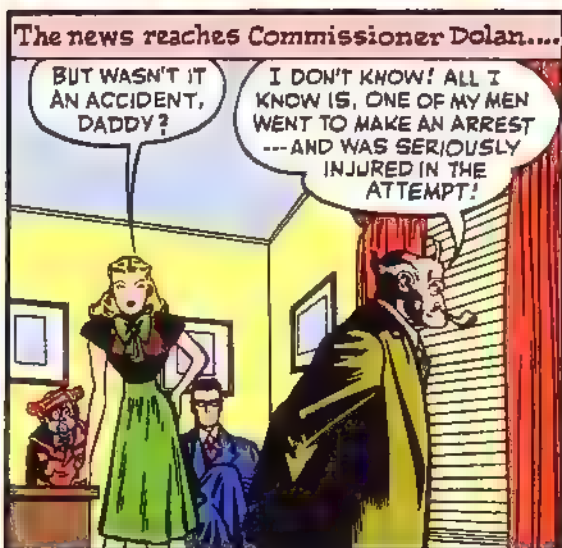
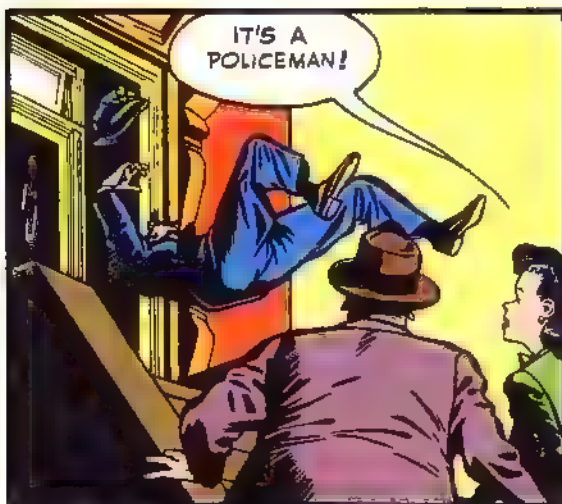
JUST WAIT TILL I GET THIS OUTA MY EYE! I'LL---

NO, THANKS! I HAVE A PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT!

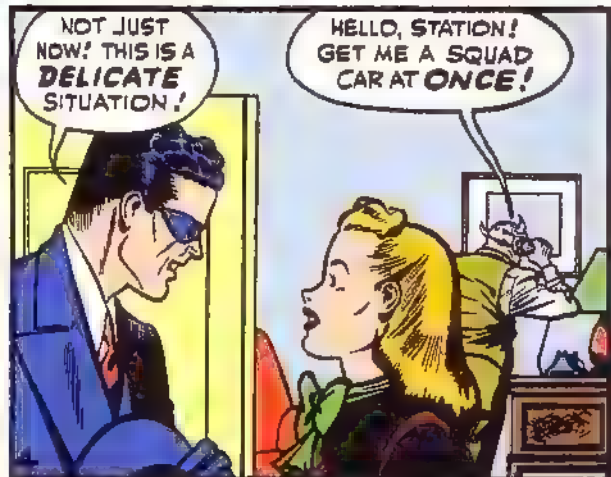
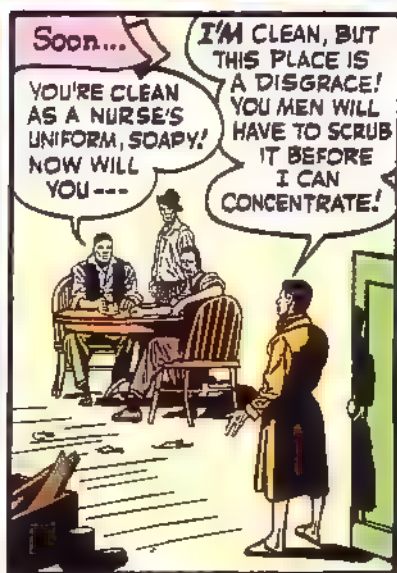
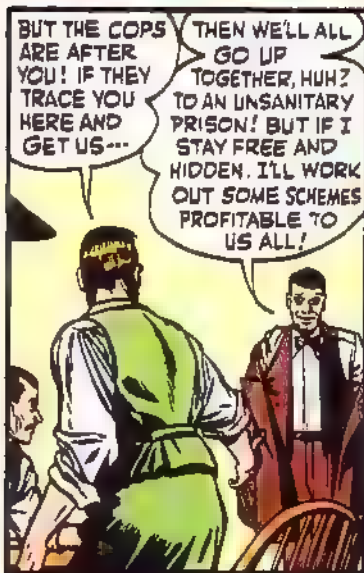
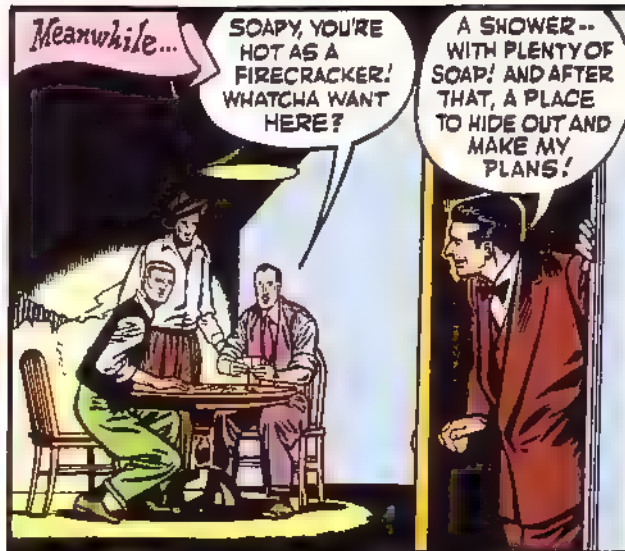
HALT! OR I'LL START SHOOTING!

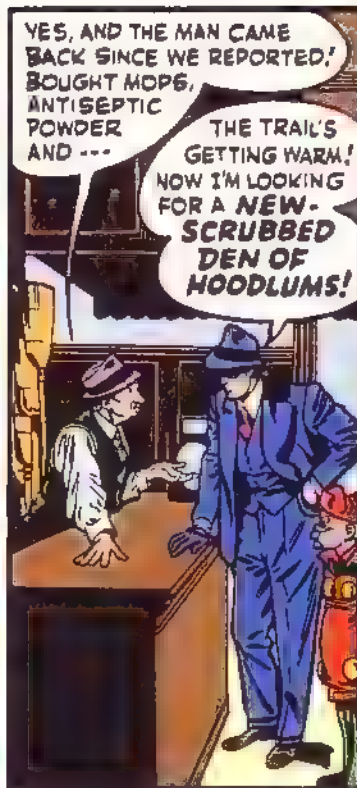
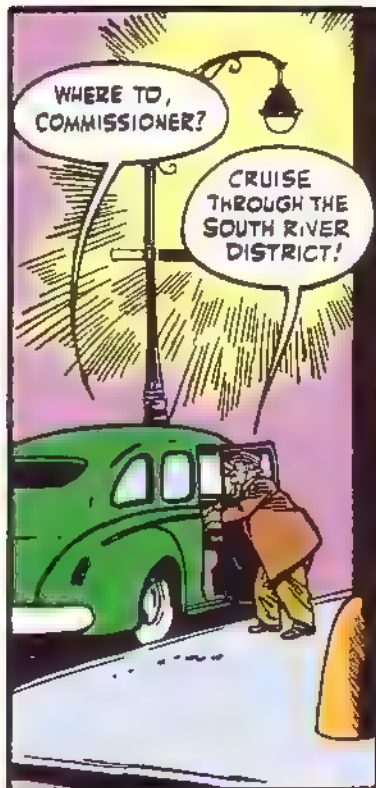
YOU CAN SHOOT THE CHUTE!

OH, WHAT A FALL THAT IS!

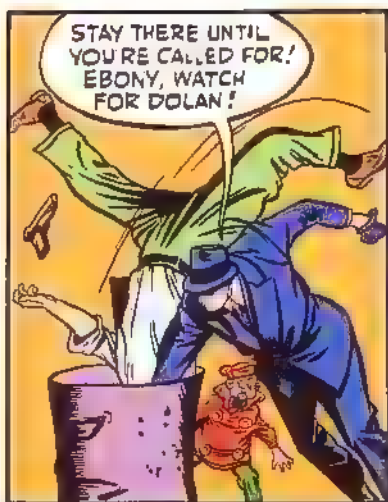










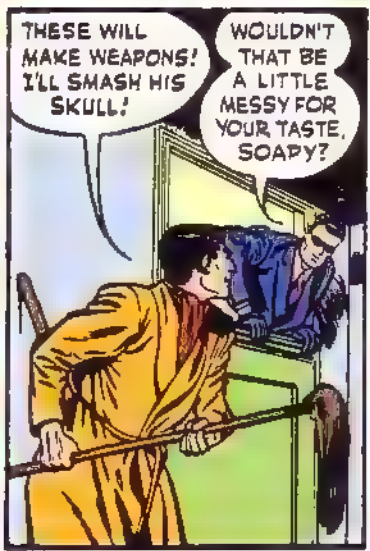
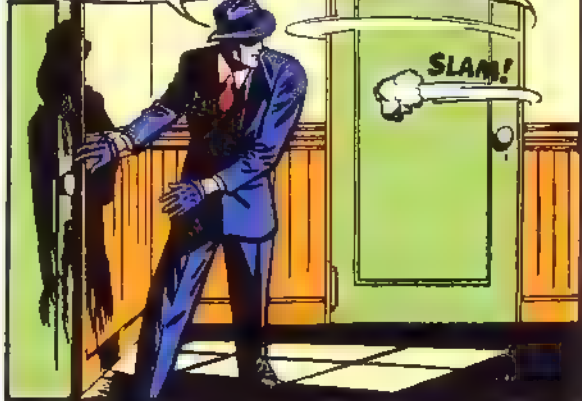




RIGHT, SPIRIT! AND---

SLIPPERY OLD SOAPY! HE WHOOSHED AROUND AND LOCKED THE OTHER DOOR!

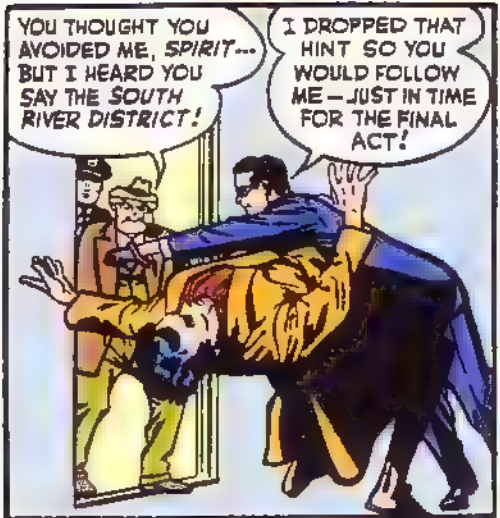
WITH YOU INSIDE, SPIRIT!



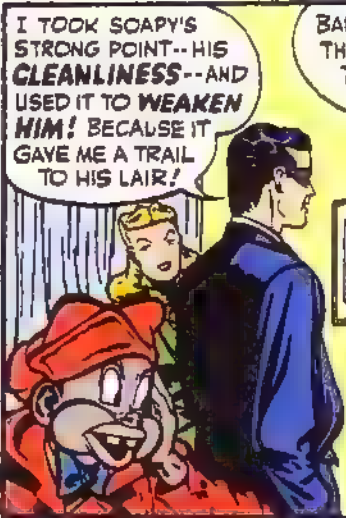
THESE WILL MAKE WEAPONS! I'LL SMASH HIS SKULL!



HEAH COME MIST'DOLAN AN' THE COPS!



YOU THOUGHT YOU AVOIDED ME, SPIRIT... BUT I HEARD YOU SAY THE SOUTH RIVER DISTRICT!



I TOOK SOAPY'S STRONG POINT--HIS CLEANLINESS--AND USED IT TO WEAKEN HIM! BECAUSE IT GAVE ME A TRAIL TO HIS LAIR!



BAH! THEORIES, FANTASTIC THEORIES! -- WHY DO THEY ALWAYS SEEM TO PAY OFF?



COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

THE ALIBI FACTORY

December 2 1945

ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

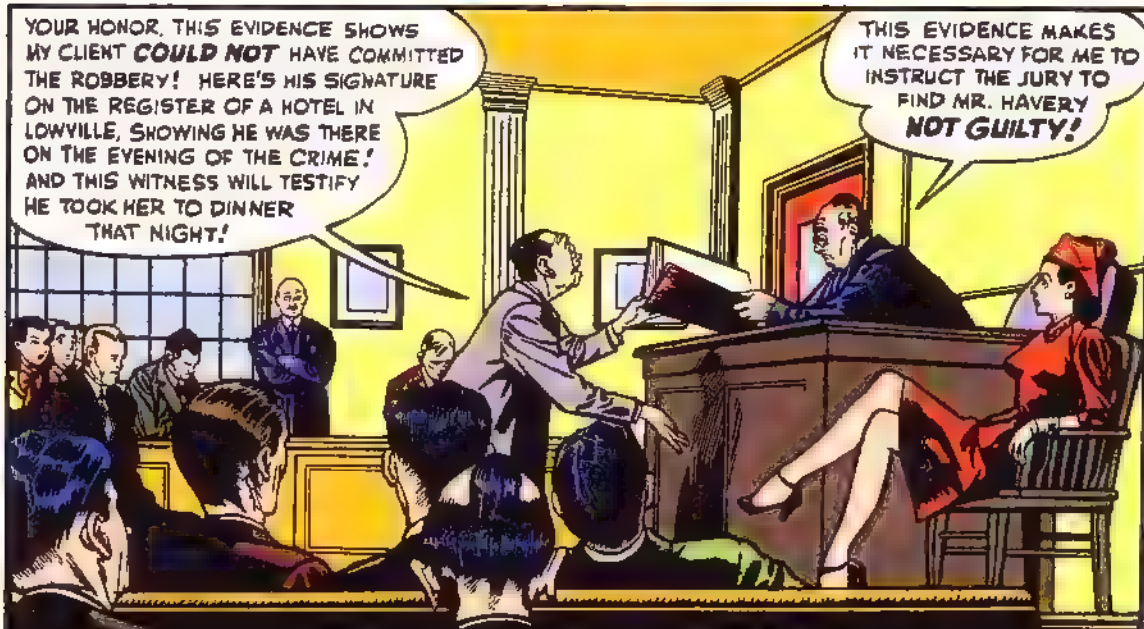
# The SPIRIT

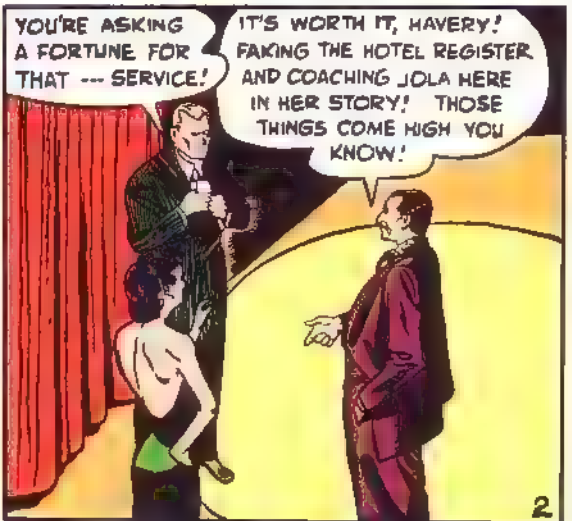
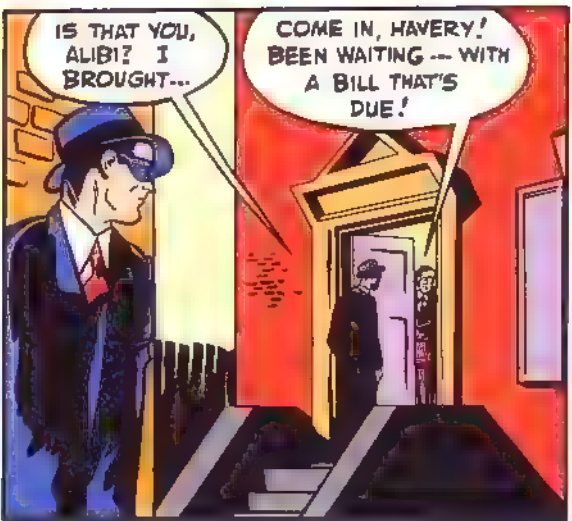
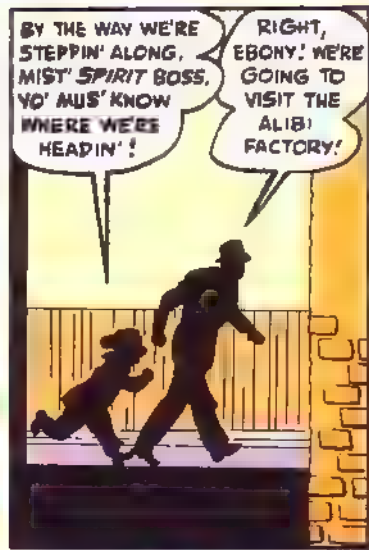
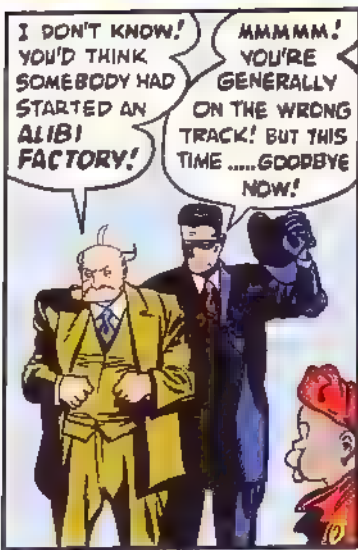
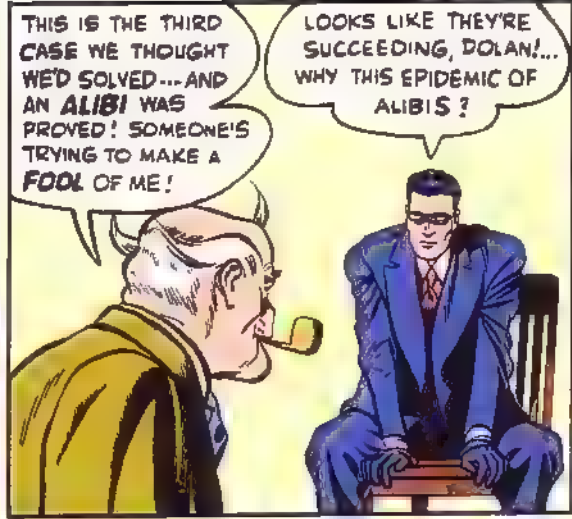
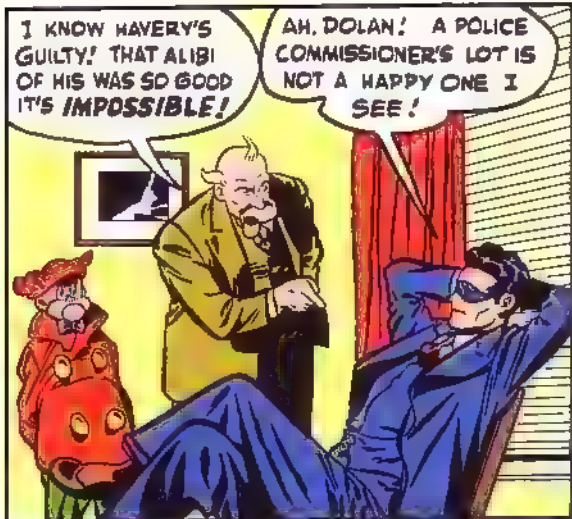


In the Central City Court House, an interesting scene is taking place....

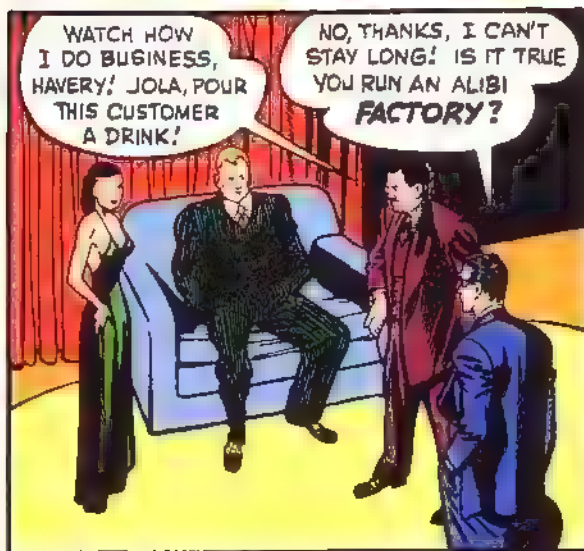
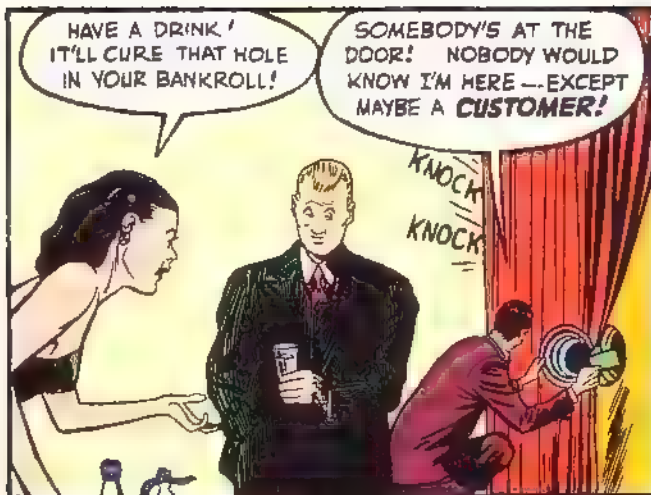
YOUR HONOR, THIS EVIDENCE SHOWS MY CLIENT **COULD NOT** HAVE COMMITTED THE ROBBERY! HERE'S HIS SIGNATURE ON THE REGISTER OF A HOTEL IN LOWVILLE, SHOWING HE WAS THERE ON THE EVENING OF THE CRIME! AND THIS WITNESS WILL TESTIFY HE TOOK HER TO DINNER THAT NIGHT!

THIS EVIDENCE MAKES IT NECESSARY FOR ME TO INSTRUCT THE JURY TO FIND MR. HAVERY **NOT GUILTY!**



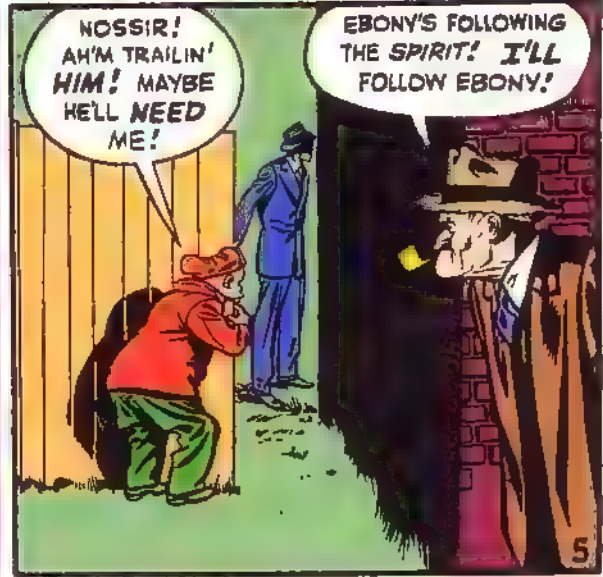
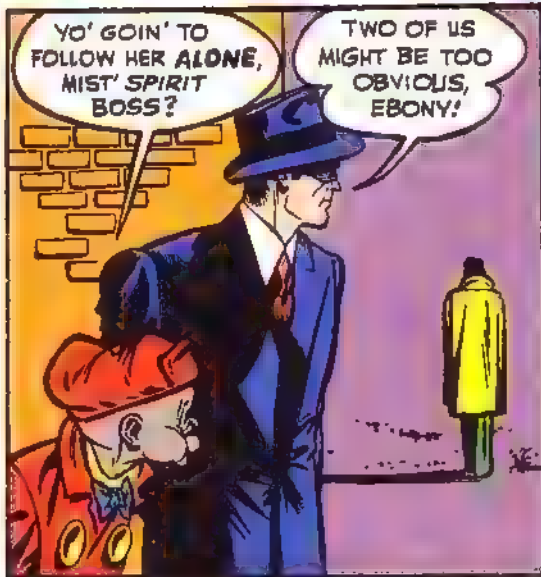
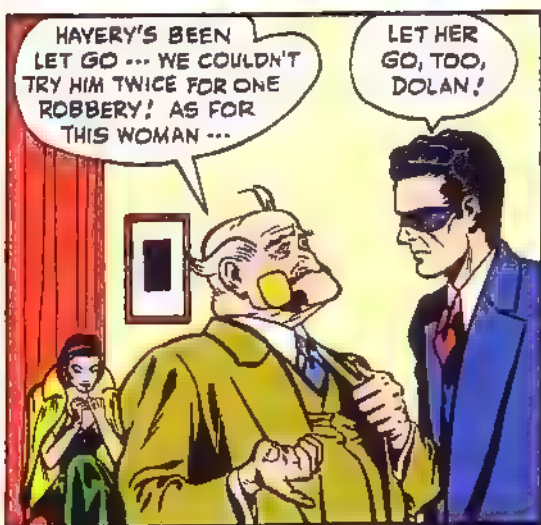
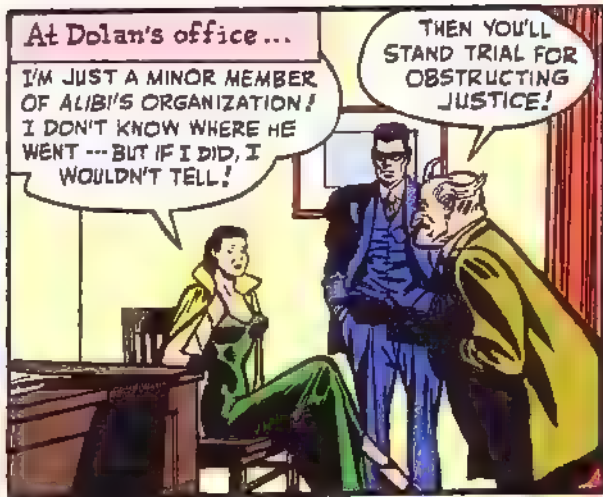
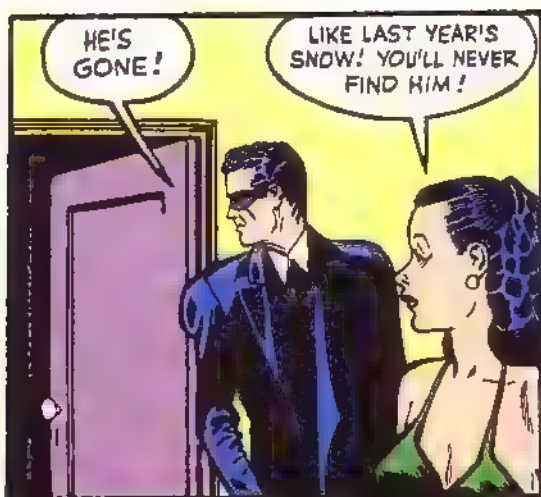












SHE'S WALKING INTO THAT PARK! I WONDER IF SHE'S GOING TO MEET ALIBI THERE!

OH, YOU'RE THAT YOUNG BLOODHOUND THEY CALL THE SPIRIT! I KNEW YOU WERE FOLLOWING ME! NOW, SEE WHAT'S BEHIND YOU!

ALIBI! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HAVERY?

KILLED HIM! FIXING AN ALIBI--- IN REVERSE!

TO BE PLAIN--- I'M FIXING EVIDENCE AGAINST YOU!

WHAT WAS HE DOING WITH THAT WALKING STICK?

I PUT IT IN HIS HAND! IT WILL MATCH THE BUMP WE'LL PUT ON YOUR HEAD!

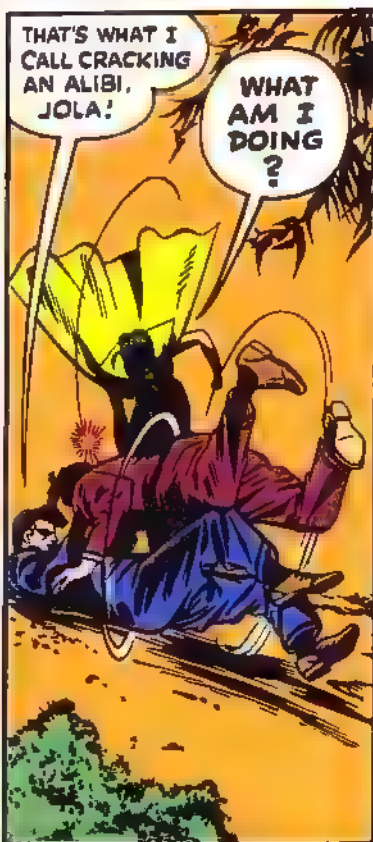
YOU'RE GOING TO SLUG ME?

CORRECT! STUN YOU -- PUT THE DEATH GUN IN YOUR HAND ---CALL THE POLICE! IT WILL LOOK AS IF YOU AND HAVERY FOUGHT AND YOU MURDERED HIM!

STAND STILL FOR THIS BLACKJACK, SPIRIT!... NOBODY WATCHING!

NOBODY HERE BUT US WITNESSES!





**COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION**

**THE STRANGE CASE OF THE TWO**

**\$5.00 BILLS**

*December 9 1945*

**ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE**

# SPIRIT



To Ebony White comes  
a windfall -- and mystery  
.. in the strange case  
of the **TWO FIVE  
DOLLAR BILLS!**

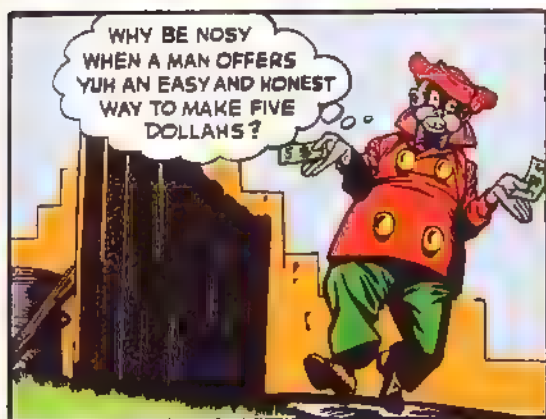


PS-S-ST!

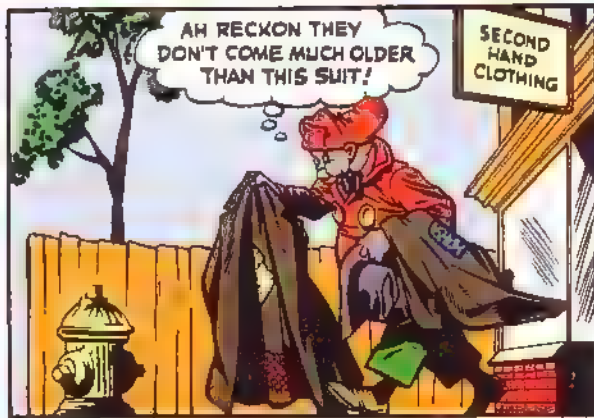
BUY ME THE OLDEST-LOOKING  
SUIT OF SECONDHAND CLOTHES  
YOU CAN GET FOR FIVE BUCKS  
AND THE OTHER FIVE IS  
YOURS! HURRY!



WHY BE NOSY  
WHEN A MAN OFFERS  
YUH AN EASY AND HONEST  
WAY TO MAKE FIVE  
DOLLARS?



AH RECKON THEY  
DON'T COME MUCH OLDER  
THAN THIS SUIT!



GIVE  
IT TO ME...  
QUICK!



THAT IS THE  
DISAPPEARINGEST  
MAN AH EVAN  
DID SEE!



LEMME SEE NOW..... FIVE  
BUCKS! AH MUSTN'T INVEST  
IT UNWISELY!



A COUPLA ICE CREAM  
CONES'D BE A GOOD BUY  
FO' A STARTER...! HUH?  
THAT'S THE SAME GEN'L MAN  
... ONLY HE SHO' LOOKS  
RUN-DOWN NOW!



SERVICE  
ENTRANCE

BACK TO  
YOUR SUITE,  
MR. BUDD!

BLAST YOU,  
OLIVER!

SERVICE  
ENTRANCE

MAYBE AH SHOULDA ASKED  
SOME QUESTIONS, AT THAT!  
THIS LOOKS MIGHTY  
QUEER!

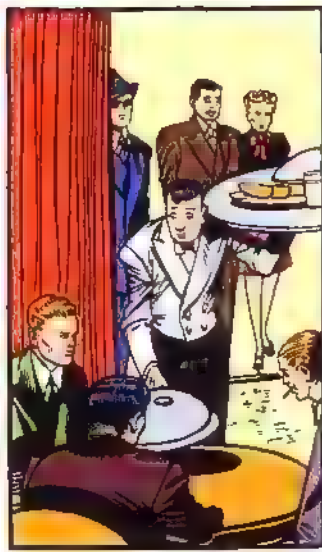
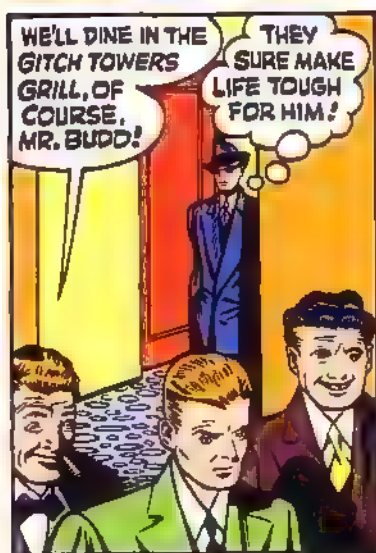
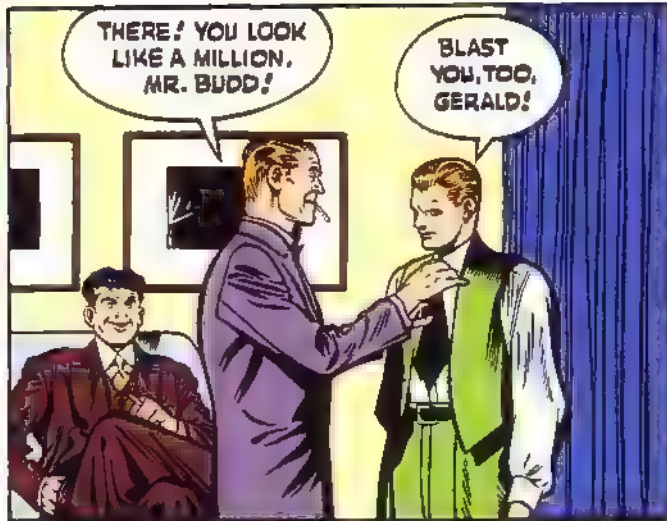
AH'LL  
TELL THE  
SPIRIT!

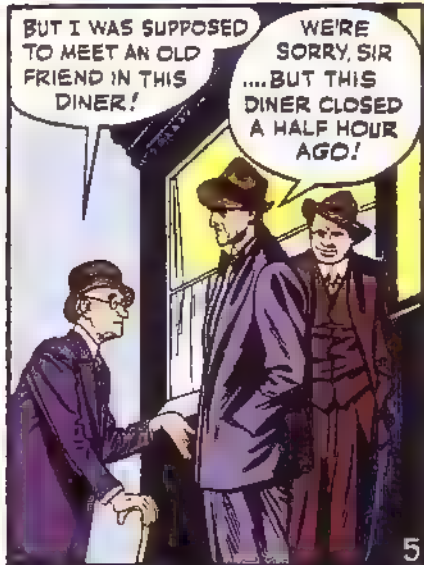
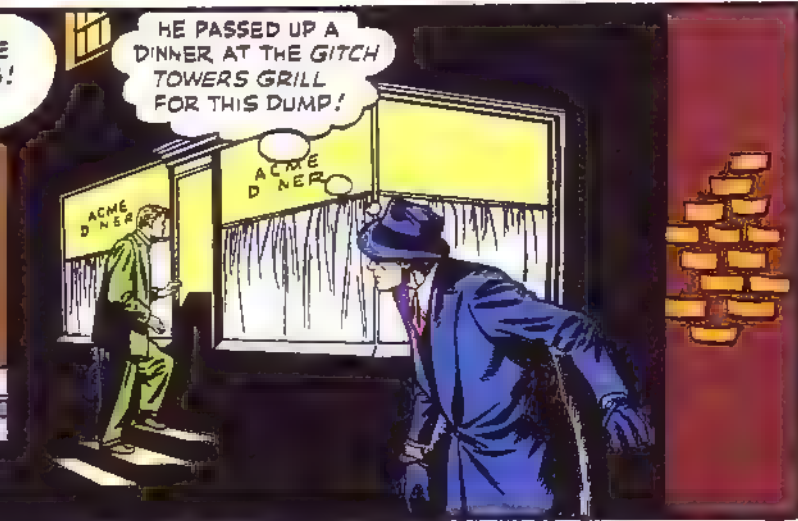
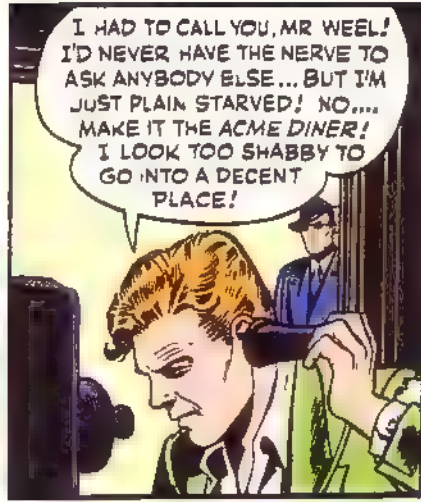
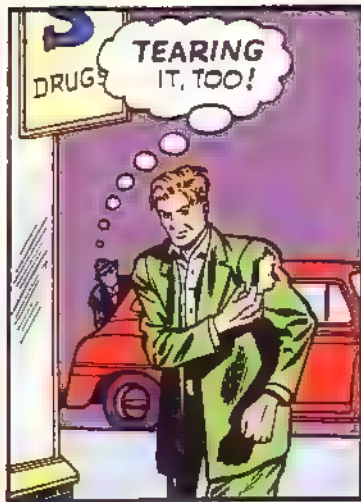
...AN' THEN THIS MAN SAYS,  
"BACK TO YO' SUITE, MR. BUDD,"  
AND SHO' ENUF, MR. BUDD  
TURNED RIGHT AROUN' AND  
WENT BACK AND FO' ALL AH  
KNOW THAT MAN JES' SHOT  
HIM DEAD IN HIS SUITE!

YOU STAY RIGHT  
HERE! I'LL TRY TO  
FIND OUT WHAT IT'S ALL  
ABOUT AND GIVE YOU  
A FIRST-HAND  
REPORT!

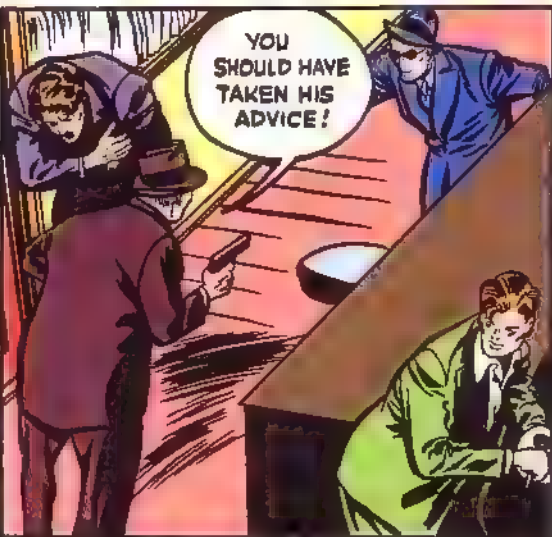
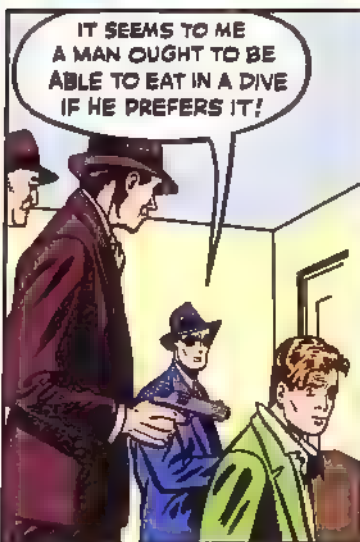
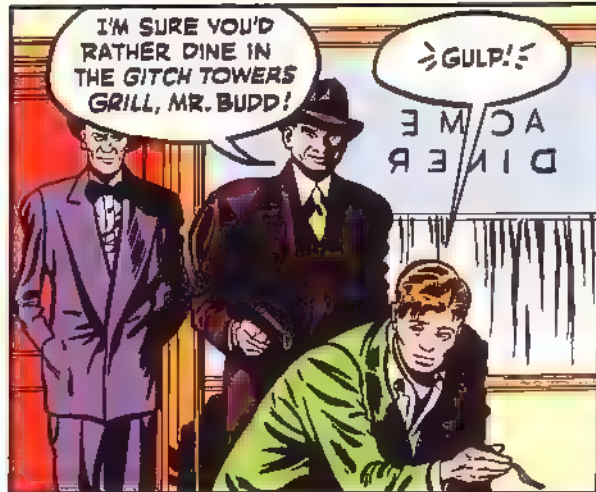
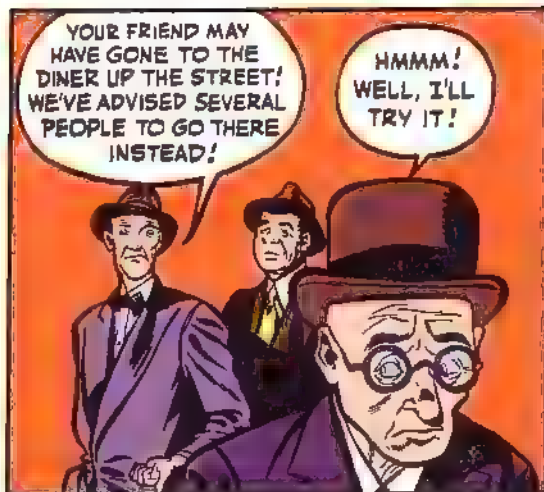
SIXTH WINDOW FROM  
THE CORNER OF THE BUILDING,  
IF EBONY WASN'T MISTAKEN!  
IT OUGHT TO BE EASY TO  
GET THE LOCATION OF  
THE ROOM FROM THAT!

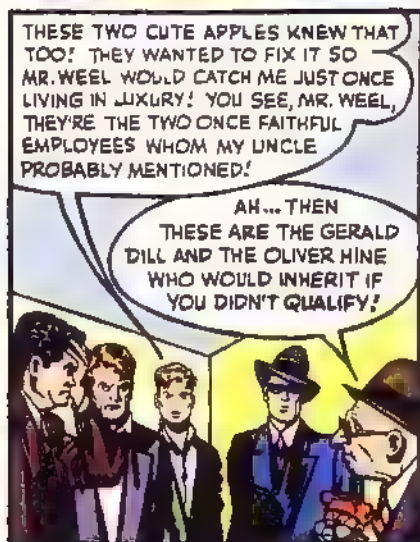
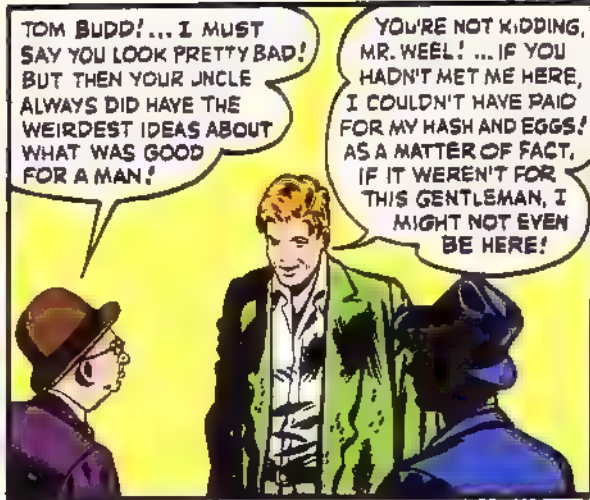
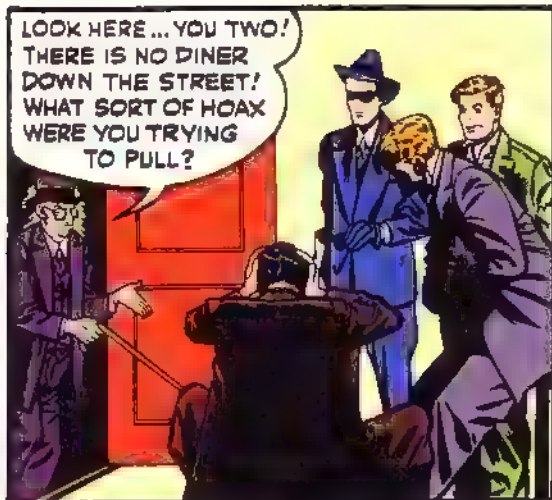




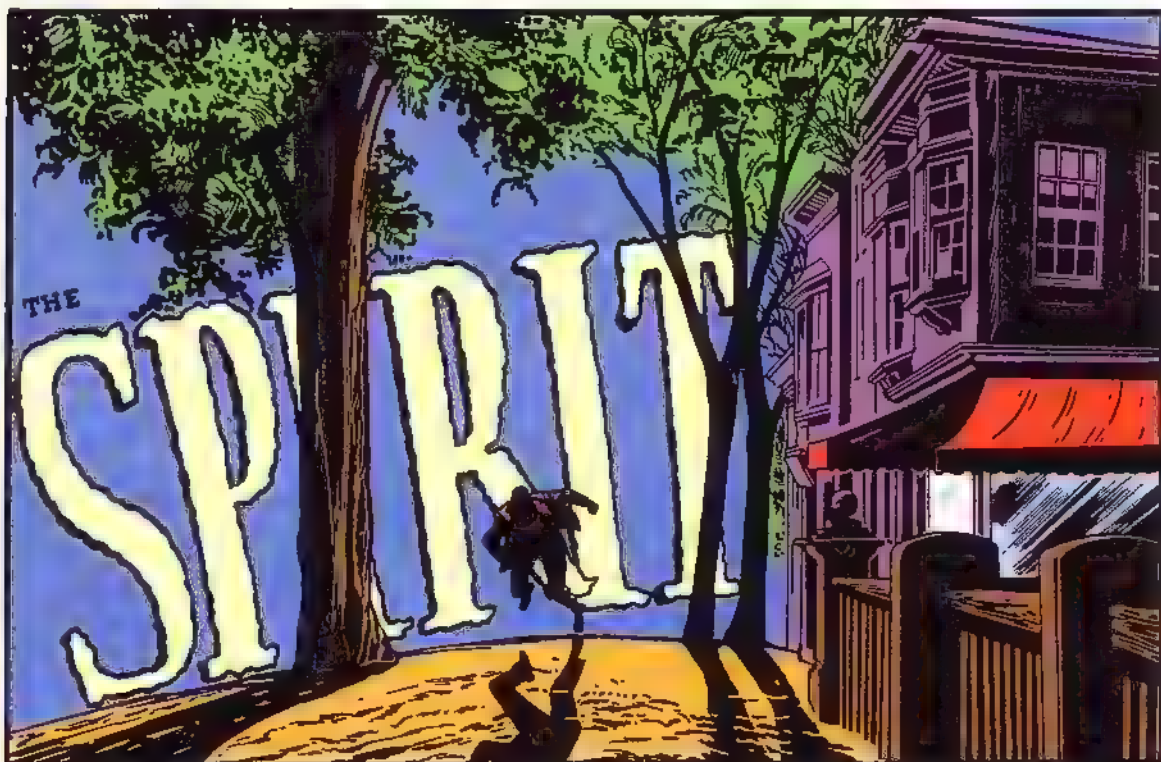


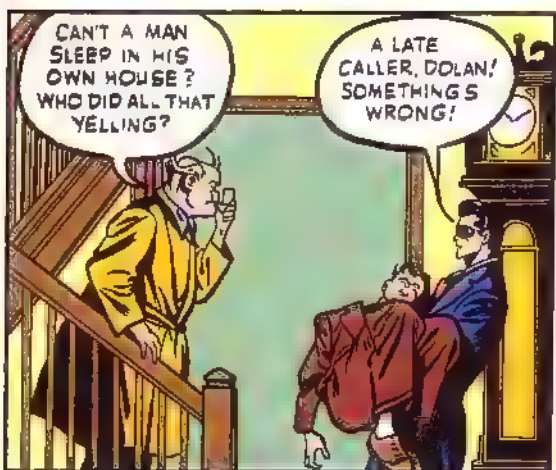




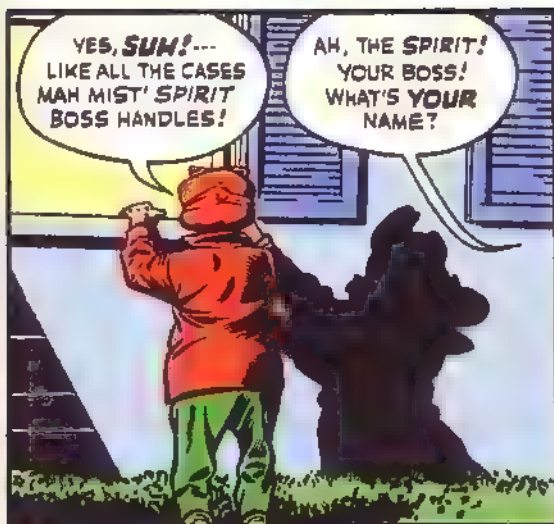










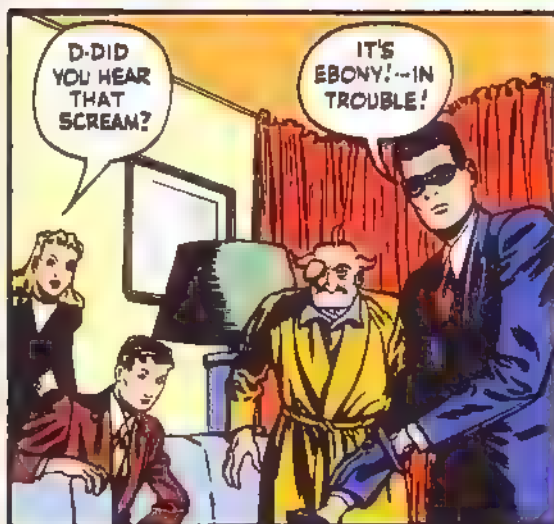


YES, *SUH!*...  
LIKE ALL THE CASES  
MAH MIST' SPIRIT  
BOSS HANDLES!

AH, THE SPIRIT!  
YOUR BOSS!  
WHAT'S *YOUR*  
NAME?



EBONY WHITE  
AN' -----  
**YOWEEEEEE!**



D-DID  
YOU HEAR  
THAT  
SCREAM?

IT'S  
EBONY!...IN  
TROUBLE!



EBONY!  
WHERE  
ARE YOU?

HEY! WAIT FOR ME!  
**I'M THE POLICE  
COMMISSIONER!**



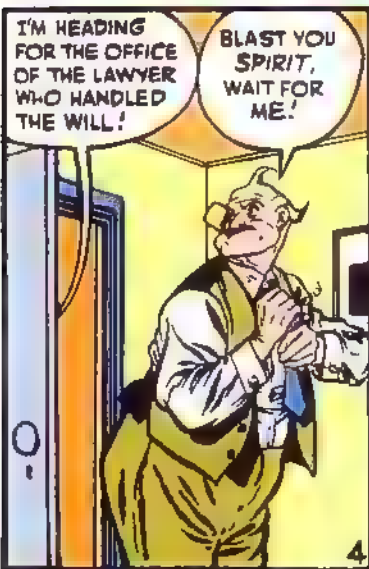
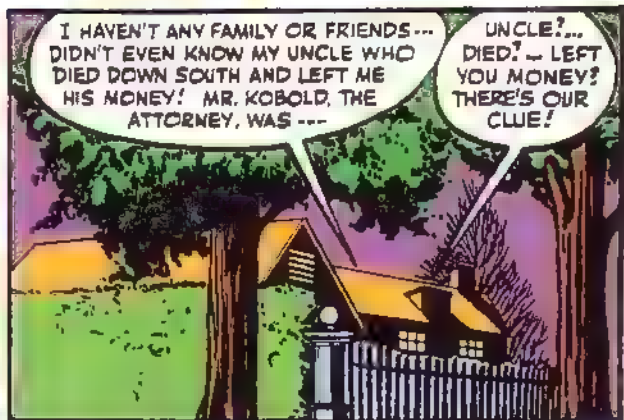
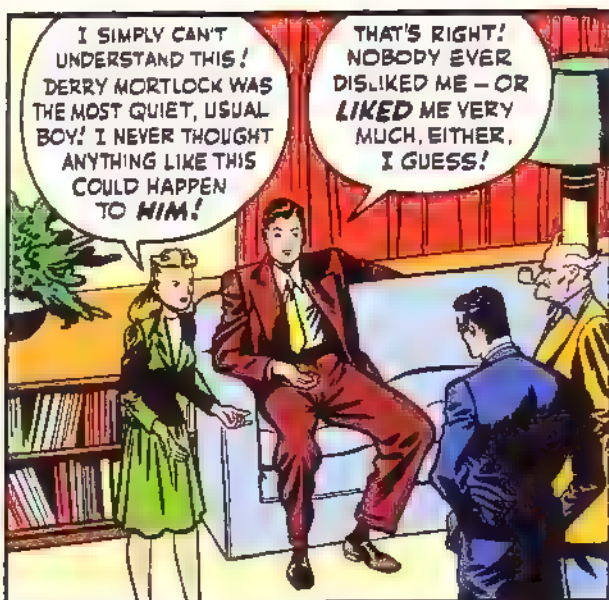
THOSE TRACKS  
ARE WHERE HE STOOD  
---AND HERE HE  
FELL DOWN!

YES, YES!  
BUT WHERE  
DID HE GO  
FROM  
THERE?

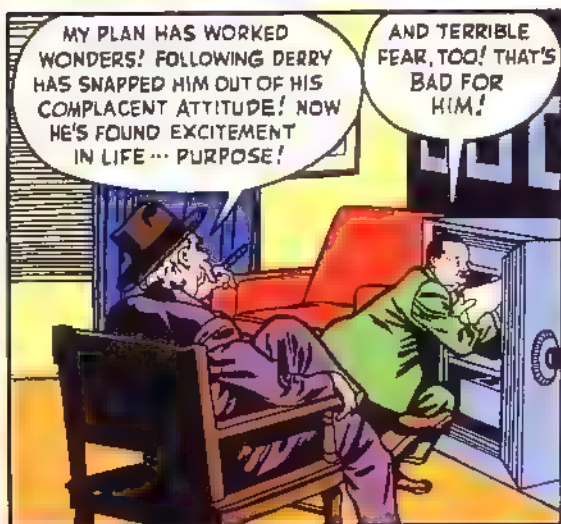
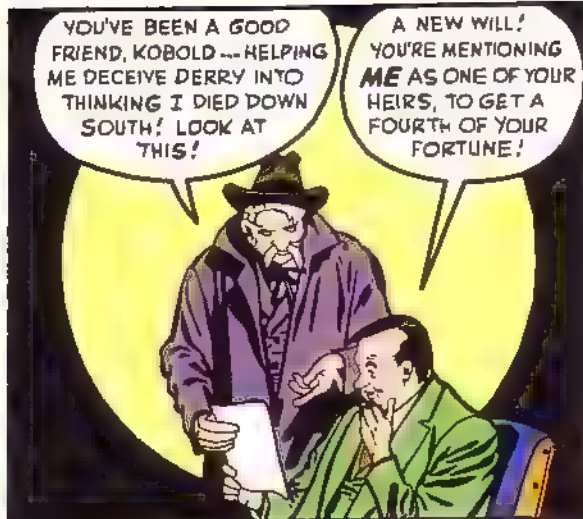
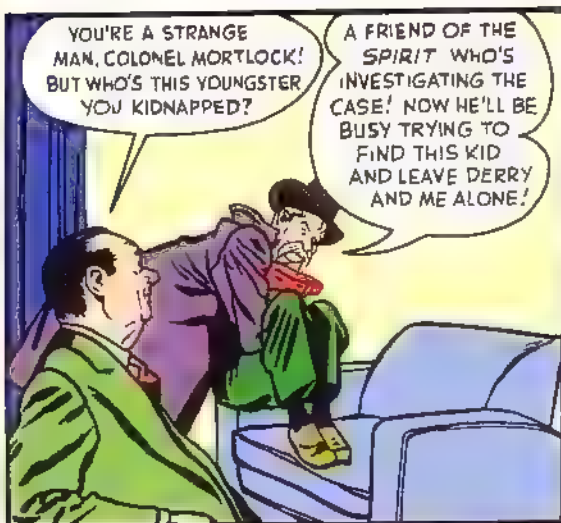


IT MUST BE PART  
OF THIS MORTLOCK  
MYSTERY! NO CLUE---  
EXCEPT MORTLOCK  
HIMSELF!

LET'S  
GET BACK  
TO HIM!









I KNEW YOU WERE PUTTING ME IN YOUR WILL FOR A TIDY SUM! I CAN'T COLLECT WHILE YOU LIVE!

B-B-BUT IF YOU'RE TRIED FOR M M MY M-M MURDER, Y-YOU'LL N-NOT GET THE IN-INHERITANCE!



HA! HA! SO YOU DO KNOW WHAT FEAR IS, COLONEL! LET ME EXPLAIN THAT I'LL NOT STAND TRIAL! I'M GOING TO FRAME THE CRIME ON --

NOT MY NEPHEW - NOT DERRY! YOU CAN'T...



BUT I CAN, COLONEL!--AND I WILL! WHEN THE WORLD LEARNS OF YOUR TRICK ON HIM, HE'LL BE THE LOGICAL SUSPECT!

WOW! THAT NIGHTMARE AH WAS HAVIN' WAS BETTER'N THIS!



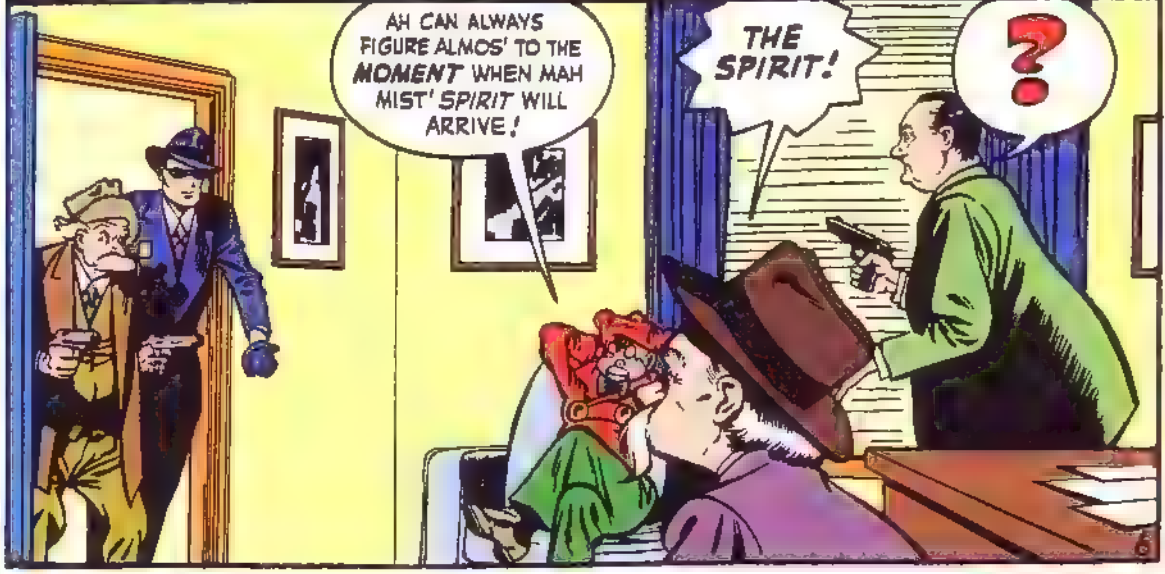
LISTENING EH? WELL, I'LL FINISH YOU, TOO! OPEN THE DOOR AND BOTH OF YOU GO OUT AHEAD OF ME!

D-DON'T DO IT, BOY! IF WE STAY HERE IN HIS OFFICE, HE WON'T DARE KILL US --- HE'LL TAKE THE BLAME ---



DO AS I SAY, YOU LITTLE SHRIMP! WHY ARE YOU HANGING BACK?

JUST A MATTER OF TIME! GIVE ME 'BOU' FIVE MO' SECONDS---

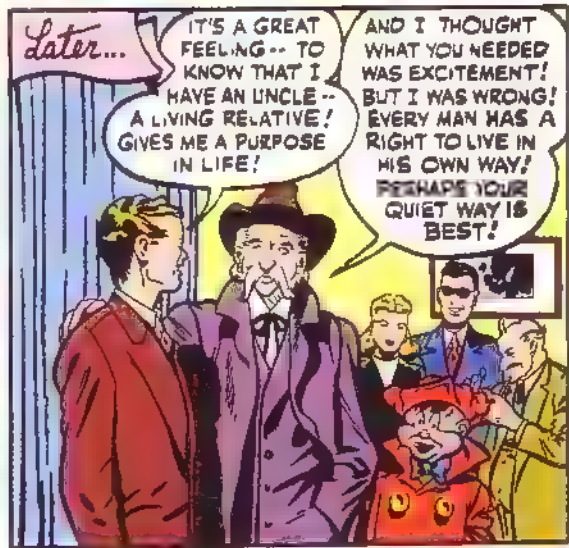
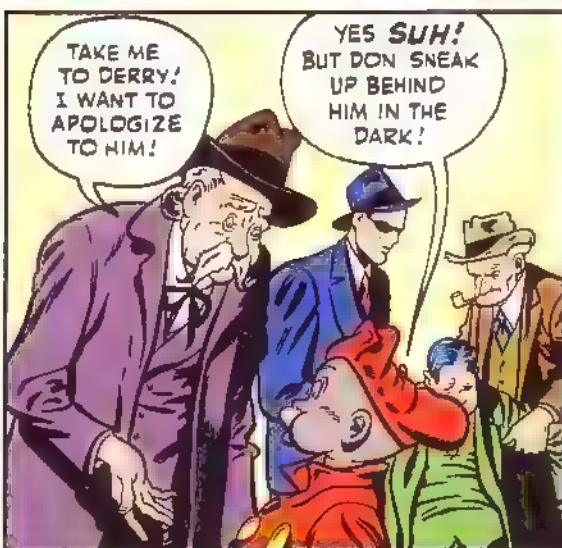
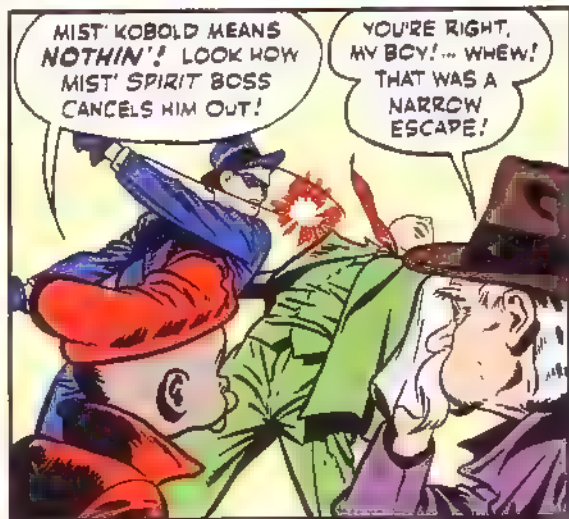
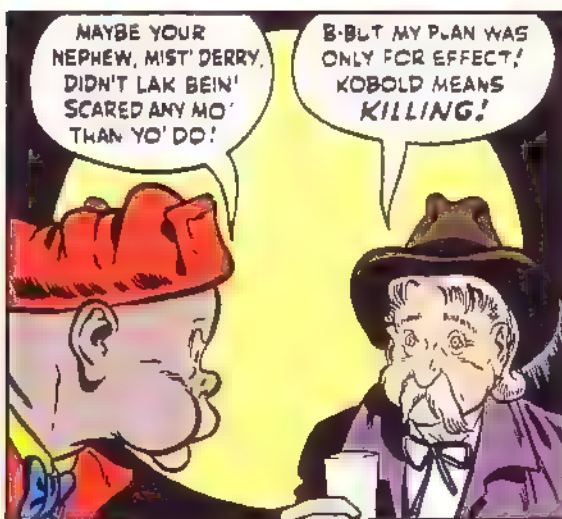
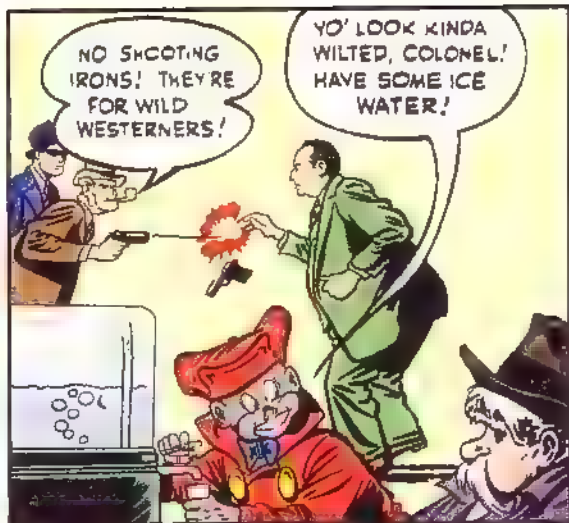


AH CAN ALWAYS FIGURE ALMO'S TO THE MOMENT WHEN MAH MIST' SPIRIT WILL ARRIVE!

THE SPIRIT!

?





**COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION**

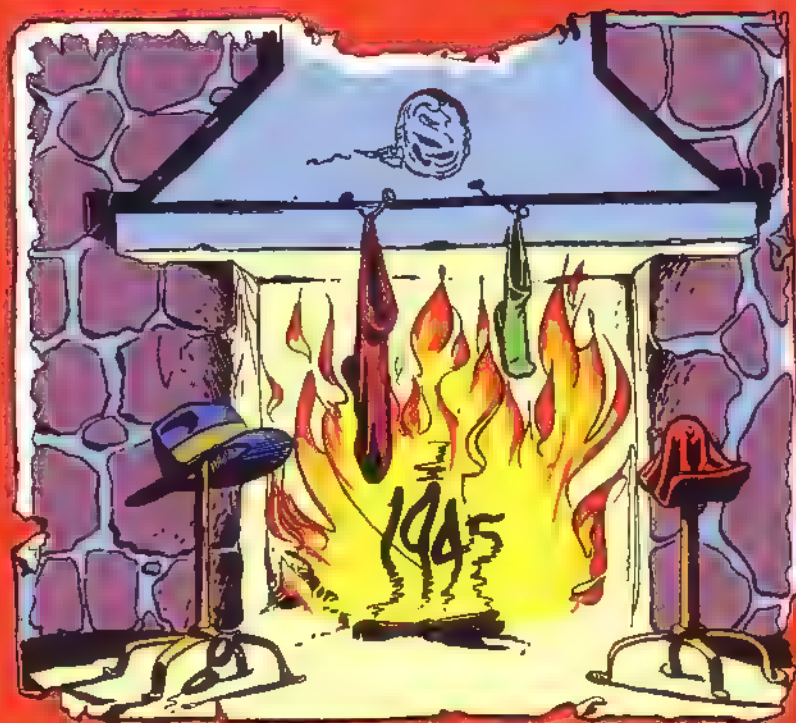
**THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT OF 1945:  
HORTON J. WINKLENOD**

December 23 1945

**ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE**

# The Christmas SPIRIT

by Will Eisner





**O**NCE upon a time there lived a man in Central City who believed in Santa Claus... that is, until about a week before Christmas!

LOOK HERE, H-J, YOU'RE A GROWN MAN - A MULTI-MILLIONAIRE.. OWNER OF WINKLENOD'S DEPARTMENT STORE! YOU MIGHT AS WELL FACE THE FACTS OF LIFE RIGHT NOW..... THERE **AIN'T** NO SANTA CLAUS!

**WHAT!!**

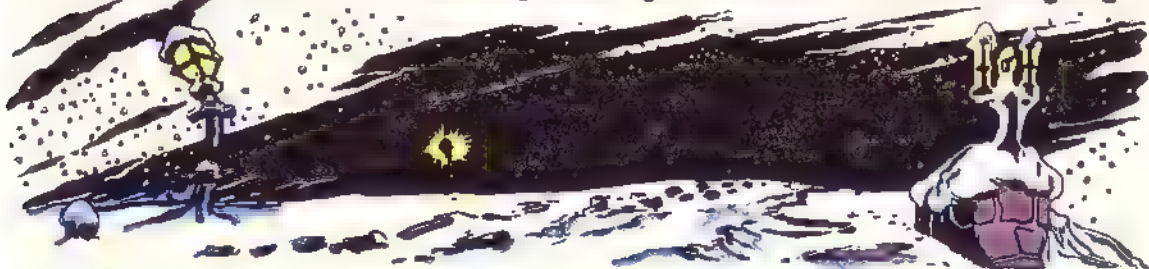
B-BUT WHO --WHO FILLS MY STOCKINGS EACH YEAR?... I SAW HIM ONCE .... I.... OH, DEAR ... ME ... DINAH....

THAT, I'M AFRAID, WAS MR. MORRIS CRINGLE OF LADIES' WEAR ON THE FIFTH FLOOR .... I'M SORRY, SIR, BUT YOU HAD TO KNOW SOMETIME!

OH!

NO NEED FOR SADNESS, MR. WINKLENOD! AS PRESIDENT OF THE ACME SANTA CLAUS ASSOCIATION, I CAN ASSURE YOU **TWENTY-FIVE** BONA FIDE SANTY CLAUSES DURING THE CHRISTMAS RUSH.... JUST SIGN HERE ....

**T**o say that Horton J. Winklenod was disillusioned is putting it mildly. That evening, stunned by the biggest blow he had received in all his sheltered life, he left his office--not knowing, or caring, for that matter, where he was going.



Next day...

---NO, I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE HE MIGHT HAVE GONE!... ALL I KNOW IS THAT MR. WINKLENOD LEFT THE OFFICE AT 5:30 AND HASN'T BEEN HEARD FROM SINCE!

HMMM..... VERY WELL, WE'LL PUT SOMEONE ON IT!

Later...

HOWDY, SPIRIT.... WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRACK DOWN THE WEALTHY MR. WINKLENOD? HE'S MISSING!

NO.... THIS IS CHRISTMAS AND I PREFER TO LEAVE CRIME AND CRIMINALS TO A MORE POTENT SPIRIT--- THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!

Meanwhile...

OKAY, MEN, HERE'S Y'R COSTUMES! WE PAY OFF ON CHRISTMAS DAY!

AH, WHAT A DELIGHTFUL JOB.... I DO THIS EVERY YEAR FOR THE FUN OF IT!

WHAT A RACKET! PAID FOR GIVIN' AWAY TOYS!... HA-HA!

NAH!... TO ME, THIS IS JUST A JOB--AND ONLY A SEASONAL ONE AT THAT! PHOOY!

ACME SANTA CLAUS ASSOCIATION

AW, BUGGSY. THAT'S JES' CAUSE Y' SPENT MOSTA YA LIFE IN JAILS!... WHY DONTCHA TRY WRITIN' SANTY A LETTER...? DAT SHOULD PROVE SOMETHIN'!

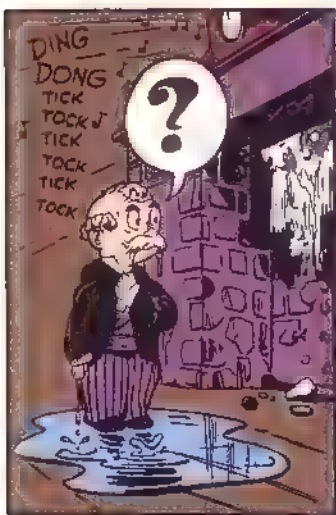
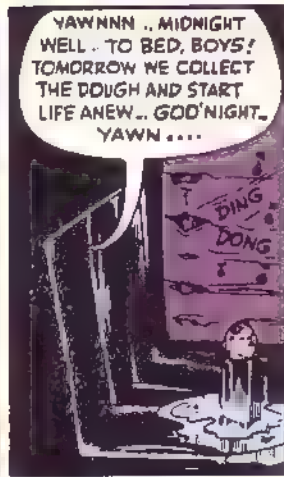
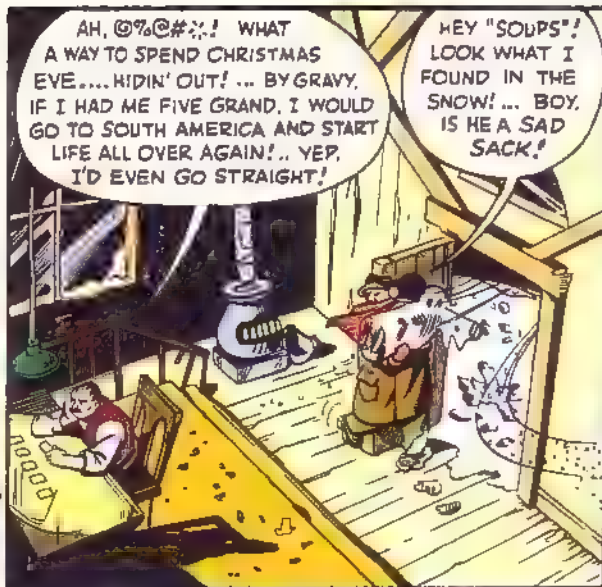
ARE YOU KIDDIN'? WHY, DAT'S SILLY! DAT'S KID STUFF!... AW-- @!%#&@\*%!!

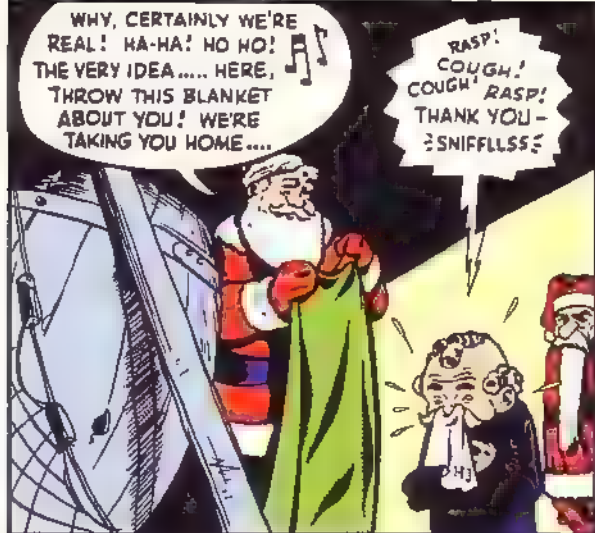
But, that night...

Dear Santa,  
I been good and went straight straight for a year.  
How is about shakin loose wit a pardon for for me?  
Bugsy



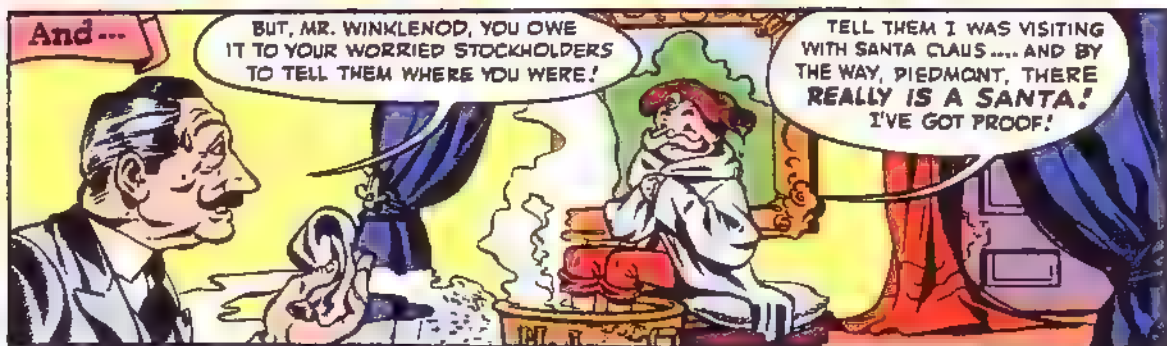
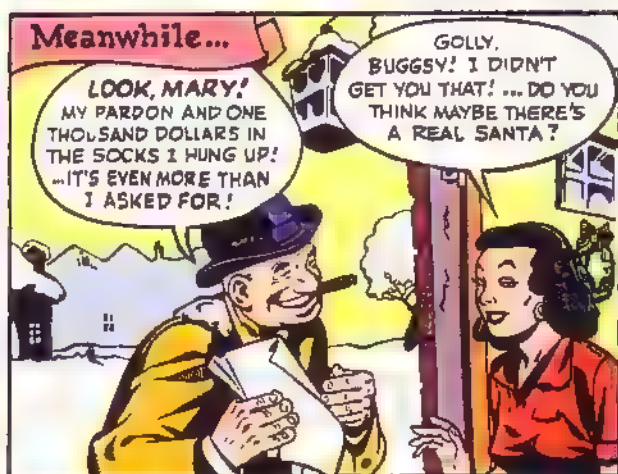
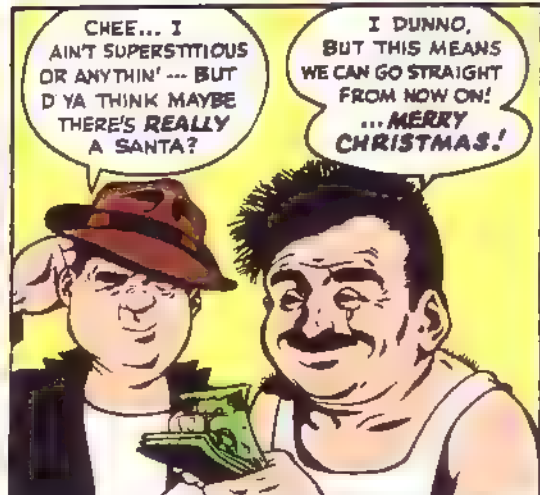
And  
so...  
on the  
night  
before  
Christmas



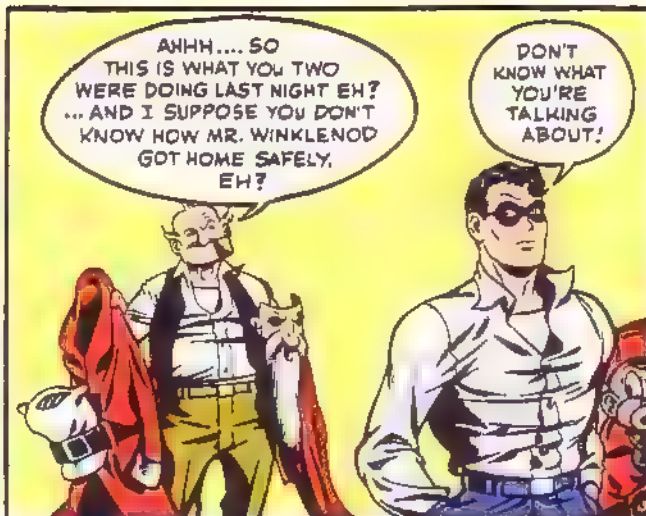
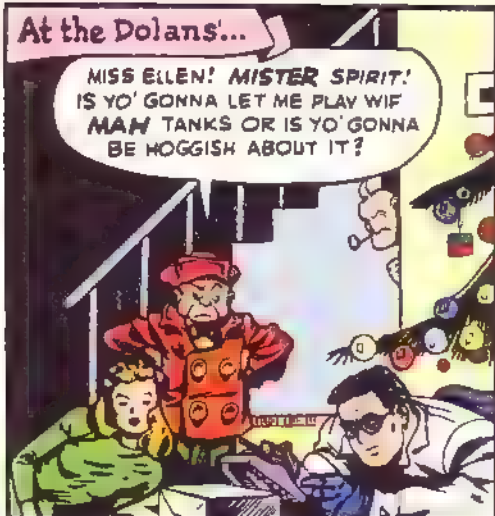




# CHRISTMAS: morning in Central City...



At the Dolans'...



And that night in the *SPIRIT's* secret hideaway at Wildwood...

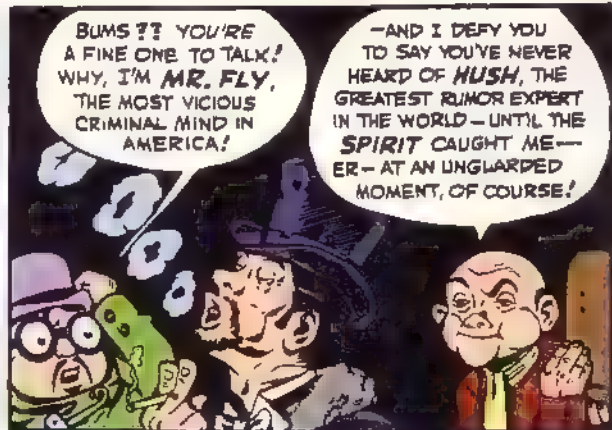
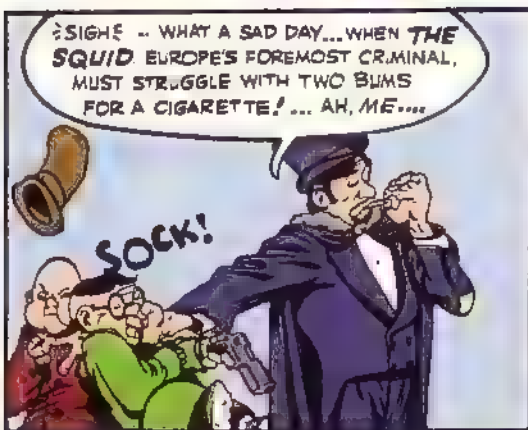
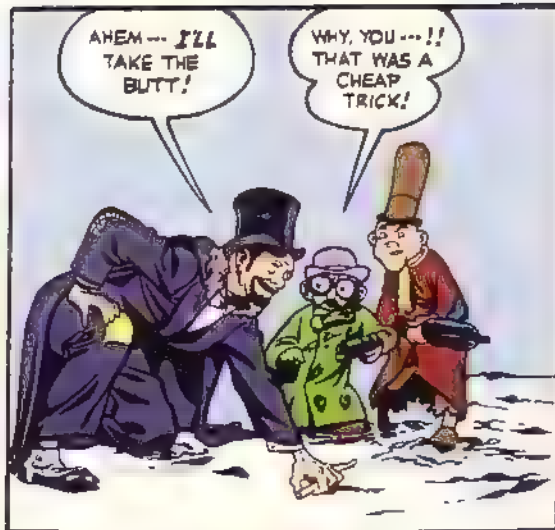




# THE RETURN OF THE VILLAINS OF '42

December 30 1945







**Next day...**

YES THERE IS AN AWARD FOR THE CAPTURE OF THE SPIRIT ... BUT... HA HA ... IT'S AN OLD WARRANT NO ONE BOTHERS TO RESCIND! ... Y' SEE, THE SPIRIT HAS DONE SO MUCH FOR OUR COMMUNITY THAT HE HAS BECOME A PUBLIC INSTITUTION, SO TO SPEAK ... HA HA!

NEVERTHELESS, IF WE DELIVER INFORMATION LEADING TO HIS CAPTURE, WE CAN COLLECT EH?

WELL, ER... YES... YOU'RE ENTITLED TO IT LEGALLY!... IT'S \$10,000--

THAT'S ALL WE WANT TO KNOW!

HOLY COW!

A few minutes later, across the gnarled surface of abandoned Wildwood Cemetery...

GOLLY! IF IT AIN'T ONE THING IT'S ANOTHER IN THIS CRIME-FIGHTIN' BUSINESS!

MIST' SPIRIT BOSS... IS YO' THERE??

RIP DENNY COLT 1941

MIST' SPIRIT, COMMISSIONER DOLAN JES' PHONED AT ELLEN'S HOUSE T' SAY THAT THREE CROOKS ARE OUT TO RE-VEAL YO' EYE ... EYE ...

IDENTITY, EBONY!

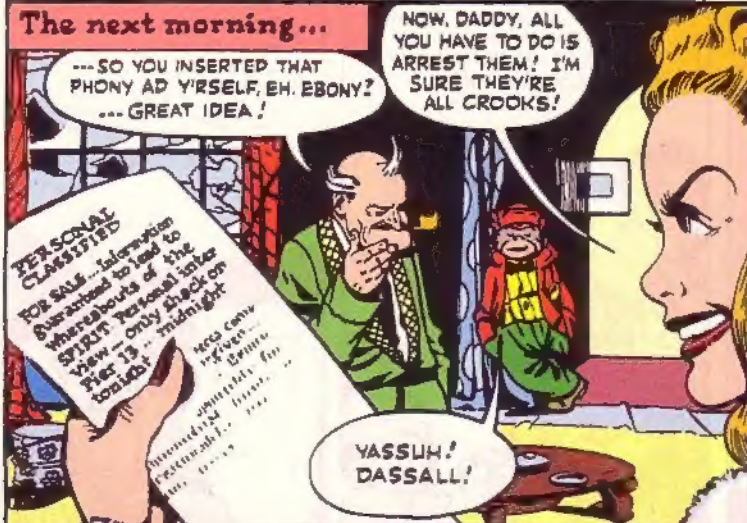
HE SAYS THEY'S THREE "CHARACTERS" NAMED MR. SQUID, MR. FLY AND MR. HUSH ..... IF THEY RE-VEALS YO' EYEDENTISTRY, OUR CRIME FIGHTIN' DAYS IS UP! WHAT'LL WE DO?

YAWN. NOTHING! HO-HUM.

THEY WON'T! ... IT'S A HOAX ... BOTH HUSH AND LITTLE MR. FLY WERE DRIVEN OUT OF CENTRAL CITY THREE YEARS AGO AND THE SQUID WAS FLOATING IN THE STRATO-SPHERE IN 1942! HA-HA! HARDLY, EBONY!...

IT'S TIMES LIKE THESE WHEN AH THINKS O' QUITTIN'!

## The next morning...



---SO YOU INSERTED THAT  
PHONY AD Y'RSSELF, EH, EBONY?  
--- GREAT IDEA!

NOW, DADDY, ALL  
YOU HAVE TO DO IS  
ARREST THEM! I'M  
SURE THEY'RE  
ALL CROOKS!

**PERSONAL  
CLASSIFIED**  
For sale... information  
guaranteed to lead to the  
SPIRIT! Personal info on  
view... only check on  
Tier 13... midnight  
tonight!

YASSUH!  
DASSALL!

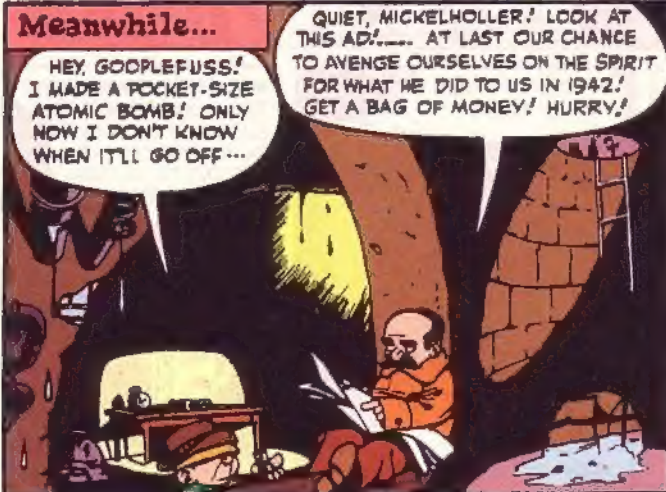
## And so...

GUESS YOUR  
RUMOR MUST HAVE  
WORKED, HUSH... ER...  
BUT DO WE HAVE TO  
CUT THE SQUID  
IN ON THIS?

YOU MEAN  
DOUBLE-CROSS  
HIM?... AH...  
SURE, LET'S  
GET THERE  
FIRST...



## Meanwhile...



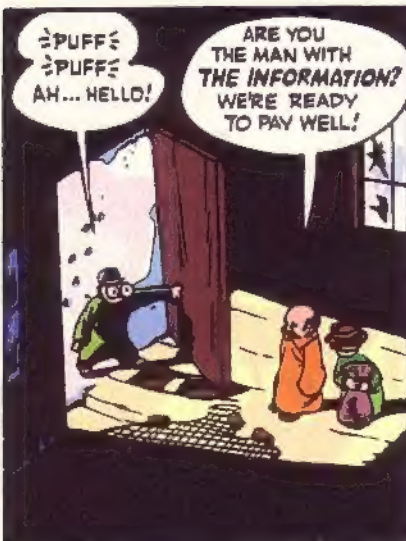
HEY, GOOPLEFUSS!  
I MADE A POCKET-SIZE  
ATOMIC BOMB! ONLY  
NOW I DON'T KNOW  
WHEN IT'LL GO OFF...

QUIET, MICKELHOLLER! LOOK AT  
THIS AD!... AT LAST OUR CHANCE  
TO AVENGE OURSELVES ON THE SPIRIT  
FOR WHAT HE DID TO US IN 1942!  
GET A BAG OF MONEY! HURRY!

## MIDNIGHT!



PUFF... PUFF...  
HAHAHAHAHA!  
POOR OLD HUSH  
STILL TRYING TO  
FIND ME...

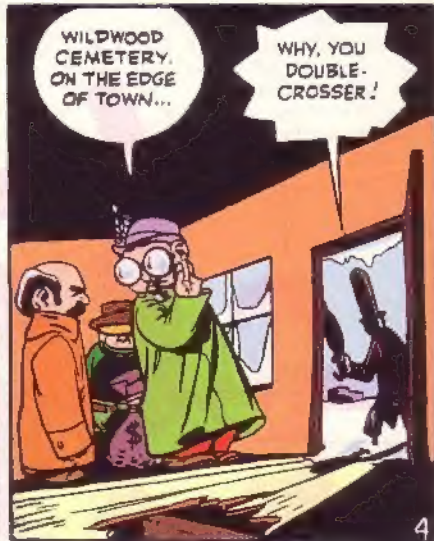


≡PUFF≡  
≡PUFF≡  
AH... HELLO!

ARE YOU  
THE MAN WITH  
THE INFORMATION?  
WE'RE READY  
TO PAY WELL!



HOLY SMOKE!  
WHAT A CHANCE TO  
MAKE EASY DOUGH.....!  
LESSEE... WHAT'S THE  
LEAST LIKELY PLACE I  
WOULD HIDE OUT IN?  
... A CEMETERY...  
NATCH...



WILDWOOD  
CEMETERY.  
ON THE EDGE  
OF TOWN...

WHY, YOU  
DOUBLE-  
CROSSER!







